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15 September 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE VIEWED BY FRANCE; ARMENIANS CONDEMN INCIDENT

Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] France regrets the Turkish government's refusal to recognize the reality of the 1915 Armenian genocide but considers that today's Turkey should not be held responsible. This was the substance of a response given by Claude Cheysson, Minister of Foreign Relations, to a question written by Alain Mayoud, UDR [French Democratic Union] deputy from the Rhone, and published July 11 in the JOURNAL OFFICIEL.

"The refusal of the Turkish government to recognize the term genocide as applied to the deportations and massacres inflicted upon the Ottoman Empire's Armenian community," commented Mr. Cheysson, "has often been deplored by both the Foreign Relations Minister and the Minister of the Interior. The Turkish government position on this point, as well as on the idea of possible reparations, remains uncompromising."

"The Minister of Foreign Relations," added Mr. Cheysson, "persists in stressing once again that present-day Turkey should not be considered responsible for the actions of the Ottoman Empire government against the Armenian Community."

Nearly all Armenian organizations in France condemned the attack on Orly Airport by the ASALA [Secret Army for Armenian Liberation].

Thus the Organization for the Reunification and Independence of Armenia declares that: "It is unacceptable to the conscience of mankind to deny the existence of an Armenian problem in human, legal, and territorial terms. We affirm nevertheless that the Armenian cause cannot be furthered towards its just resolution by spilling the blood of innocent victims."

In the region of Marseilles where the Armenian community, the largest in France, numbers in the eighty thousand members, reactions were sharp. The regional office of the UCFAF [French Cultural Union of Armenians] "vehemently condemns the attack," as does the regional committee of the Dashnagsoutioun which, through the intervention of its spokesman, Jean Cumedian, declares that, "only those actions directed

against the representation of the Turkish government can be sanctioned.... We support attacks led by justiciary commandos against ambassadors, consuls or official representatives.... We stongly condemn any form of action directed against innocent people and civilians be they of Turkish or any other nationality."

For its part, the regional office of the Armenian Youth of France reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful final solution.

Ara Toranian, an official of the National Armenian Movement, explained in the JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE that, in his opinion, the ASALA [Secret Army for Armenian Liberation],. driven by a "strategy of despair", would strike again.

Considered up until a year ago as a close ally of the ASALA, the MNA [National Armenian Movement] broke last year with the Secret Army precisely because the MNA disapproved of the blind attacks organized by the ASALA.

Mr. Toranian declared in substance that it was urgent "to have done with this strategy of cynicism and to find political solutions to the Armenian problem"; otherwise the attacks would only continue.

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INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION NOTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19-20 Aug 83 p 12

[Text] (APS)--For some time now, the agricultural sector and secondary activities have enjoyed remarkable progress, both quantitative as well as qualitative. Agricultural production has registered a substantial increase. Needs have been met better this year, showing that the latest measures taken by the government are beginning to have a positive effect.

The progress can mainly be seen in the distribution and processing fields after agricultural production itself. Reorganization and the establishment of a management control system at the different decision-making levels have made it possible to get these operations moving.

Actually, clear improvements were made this year in the organization of the collection, storage, distribution and processing of agricultural products. Such organizational progress can be seen on the inter- and intrasectorial levels. Coordination of efforts was stepped up between the socialist agricultural sector and state offices and, second, between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agrarian Revolution, the Ministry of Light Industries, the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance.

With respect to grain and dry vegetables, noteworthy progress has been made in the field of the collection of national production, the programming of imports, storage and distribution. No wilaya [governorate] registered any significant losses of harvests stored in the open. Concerning imports, the average number of ships in the roadstead declined considerably. Operations to haul away imported goods are well underway, which will result in substantial savings on foreign exchange.

Concerning the marketing of fruits and vegetables, encouraging results have also been made in keeping with the provisions contained in the interministerial circular of 27 April 1982. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Agrarian Revolution and the Ministry of Trade strengthened relations between the production units in the socialist agricultural sector, on the one hand, and the COFEL [Fruit and Vegetable Cooperatives] and OFLA [Fruit and Vegetable Office], on the other. The process is aided by the establishment of an adequate price policy aimed at protecting the interests of producers, public distributors and consumers.

Major Progress

For the first time, the oil-yielding products offices were responsible, in addition to their tradition role of collecting, processing and packing products, for a vast operation of collecting several thousand hectoliters of oil from small producers experiencing difficulty in marketing their production, mainly because of the competition from subsidized imported oils. These offices are also planning to give substantial support to small producers so that they can replace the equipment of their modest oilworks and obtain spare parts.

At the same time, the meat offices have doubled their efforts aimed at developing national production, storage, processing and distribution. In medium-range terms, these offices will have to supply over a thousand production units in the socialist agricultural sector with sheep at a rate of 1.5 million head a year. After fattening, the livestock will be slaughtered, stored and distributed.

Concerning the collection of local meat, these establishments have made major progress with respect to the period preceding the reorganization operation. A goal of 10,000 tons was set for 1983.

Regarding poultry production, a substantial improvement has been made recently in supplying the national market with eggs to be incubated, day-old chicks and pullets. In order to develop the production of eggs, poultry offices, with financial aid from the BADR (Agricultural and Rural Development Bank), have launched a vast program to set up hatcheries and poultry farms on a national scale.

At the end of the first phase of application of this program (May 1983), there was already a capacity of 990,000 layers. By the end of the year, that capacity will be increased to over 2 million hens, or an annual production of 400 million to 450 million eggs for consumption. For the production of fryers, the production went from 80,000 tons in 1979 to 150,000 tons in 1983.

The effect of this increase in production is double: On the one hand, it contributed to the stabilization of the market and, on the other hand, it brought about a drop in the price of this widely consumed product. In order to solve the problem of storage, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agrarian Revolution plans to take delivery in the months to come of a chain of cold-storage facilities with a capacity of 50,000 cubic meters (about 20,000 tons capacity) and a vast network of poultry slaughterhouses (capacity of 25,000 tons a year), making it possible to collect a substantial portion of the national production of red meat, white meat and eggs.

In addition, an increasingly important role is being played by the daily offices in meeting the people's needs for milk and dairy products. Milk production went from 334 million liters in 1979 to 500 million in 1983.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECTOR EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 10 Aug 83 p 3

/Article by Y Bournine: "A Sector in Full Expansion"/

/Text/ The problems of urban and interurban transport, already very complex in normal times, are particularly noticeable during the summer season.

To be persuaded of this all you have to do is observe what is going on in the roadways and on the railways of the major urban cities, let alone in the airports. This situation is multiplied during the summer and holiday times, when the stations and airports are literally invaded. The country's economic and social development, the rise in the standard of living, and the strong urge for the youth to discover and learn about the different parts of the country give transport a dynamic economic and social character. This situation calls for the expansion and modernization of networks, particularly road and rail, the quantitative and qualitative improvement of resources, and rational use--based on scientific organization--of the existing potentials...This is what the ruling bodies of the country are trying to do, through numerous and significant projects involving infrastructure and equipment.

In Tizi Ouzou wilaya, passenger transport has in the last few years registered important progress in respect to resources and number of users. Though the National Passenger Transport Company (SNTV) remains by far the most important transporter with respect to distance covered and capacity per unit, it is not, however, the leader in number of vehicles in use or overall passengers carried.

With its 71 cars and 4,615 seats it ranks third, according to the Department of Transportation, behind employee transport with 320 vehicles and 8,549 seats, and enterprises and community local government bodies with 189 vehicles and total capacity of 6,158 travelers. However, these figures suggest some useful explanations. Aside from the fact that the SNTV contributes to transport of personnel by the semipermanent assignment of some 15 cars to production units, the average per unit that we obtain by dividing overall capacity by the number of vehicles tells us more

precisely what types of vehicles are being used by the various public operators and hence gives us information about the nature of the transportation and quality of service.

A simple calculation gives us the figure of average unit capacity of 65 for the SNTV, 32.5 for enterprises and community bodies, and only 27 for transport of personnel.

It is evident that transport of personnel uses mainly older vehicles that were not originally intended for carrying passengers, and that enterprises and community bodies--with a few exceptions--only have minibus vehicles devoted mainly to school runs. In fact, there are only two communities, Tizi-Ouzou and Draa Ben-Khedda, that operate large-scale and regular passenger transport.

We should also point out the formation last year of a wilaya company with 40 vehicles and total capacity of 2,240, or an average per unit of 56, along with the existence of private transport of 60 vehicles bringing the total capacity to 3,734 seats. Tizi-Ouzou wilaya thus has 680 vehicles able to transport 25,296 people per day.

During the past few years, the transport sector in this wilaya has virtually leaped ahead, the number of vehicles having increased from 232 in 1978 to 680 in 1983, and routes from 282 to 500.

Unfortunately, we do not have statistics to follow the progress in number of users during the same period. It is nevertheless worth noting that the Tizi-Ouzou communal enterprise transported 251,071 people in April 1983, and that the wilaya company, which is in its first year of operation, carried 181,000 passengers in May 1983 over a total distance of 192,110 km.

When we consider that these two organizations did not yet exist in 1980, we get some idea of the demand that has been met since then and of the improvement in cooperation within Tizi-Ouzou community and within the wilaya.

Establishment of Two Communal Enterprises

Thus, in addition to the SNTV and a few private transporters who had shared a monopoly of passenger transport, two communal enterprises, 29 local government bodies, and wilaya company have emerged. For example, the wilaya company and the Tizi-Ouzou community enterprise, with respectively 40 and 27 vehicles, serve for the former, 32 routes corresponding to the number of communities under the wilaya administrative center, and the latter, 15 routes corresponding to the number of districts and villages under the community of the wilaya administrative center.

Thus, demand has not been quantified and remains difficult to estimate with any precision, since there are many unknown factors. However, it is hardly necessary to stress that this commitment of resources is in response to a pressure of demand that, though certainly fluctuating, is real and

increasing. One can estimate it in a very broad way by checking ticket sales and observing a few indicators such as the crowds around ticket windows and the stations, waiting periods, and profit of the lines.

The growth in means of transport and development of the network both on the national and local level has been considerable both in extent and numbers. However, the number of vehicles and lines will continue to fall short of demand unless the railway network--through broader distribution of lines, higher speed, and better service--comes to the assistance of the road passenger network. Though neglected during the past decade of development, the strategic role of the railway network on the economic and social levels is not better appreciated, and in the past few years it has been getting the full attention of the administration. When the major projects, in progress or under study, in the Hauts-Plateaux and in the northern and southern parts of the country are completed, we will then be able to talk about an effective solution to our transport problems.

Rational use of the means of transport requires detailed study of the route network, diversification of resources, greater technical capability of personnel, more developed infrastructure, flawless coordination of the various public and private organizations, reasonable use of vehicles and high quality maintenance. All regulatory measures seem to have been taken toward conversion of communal local government bodies into companies or public services through application of the SGT to the affected passengers. Finally, we should note the upcoming allocation of 20 minibus vehicles to a number of the wilaya Mujahedin to expand the existing transportation.

We should also note the importance of the Tizi-Ouzou bus station, which plays a major role as an infrastructure for handling passengers and transport vehicles.

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CURRENT PROBLEMS PLAGUING COUNTRY DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 751, 6 Jun 83 pp 30-32

[Article by Dr Jalilah al-Qadi: "The Crisis of a Society Whose Buildings Are Collapsing and Whose Land Is Being Usurped"]

[Text] For the second time in less than 1 year AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI is raising the subject of buildings that are collapsing and floors that are being added to buildings in violation of regulations. This phenomenon, like other phenomena that developed and became widespread in Egyptian society, has become widespread and now constitutes part of our daily toil and trouble. This phenomenon has become so much a part of our daily toil and trouble that reaction to it has become muted. The collapse of a high-rise building and the death of all its tenants under all the rubble is no longer a disaster. It is rather one of many problems that [we think] will be solved by a law, by the application of modern technology, by following up on implementation, by adhering to specifications and by recruiting engineers in a state that proclaims the slogan of knowledge and the sovereignty of the law. The problem in our view, however, is not just technological and legal. This problem is like that of encroaching on state-owned land and the rupture of sewage [pipes] in holes in Egypt. The time has come to take a good look at these phenomena which are becoming acute and recurrent. The time has come to take a good look at the relationship these phenomena have with each other and with the development of social relations in society.

These phenomena indicate basically that Egyptian society is going through a crisis. We are not talking here about a crisis of morals or a crisis of conscience, but we are talking about a social crisis whose substance is ideological and whose roots are economic.

Before we begin analyzing our point of view, we want to affirm a self-evident fact: the reality and the essence of laws indicate a power relationship between different interests in a society. Application of the law follows that relationship. Therefore a law may remain ink on paper to be used by [certain] powers against others when they see fit and when circumstances warrant. However, the inertness of the law and its failure to perform what it was enacted to perform indicate the existence of a kind of relative balance between different class interests.

We will give two examples to furnish proof of this fact: the addition of floors to existing buildings in violation of regulations and the encroachment on state-owned land.

The 5 February 1982 issue of AL-AHRAM included an investigative report on floors that are added to buildings in violation of regulations. Neighborhood chiefs were questioned in that report from which we will cite a few sections without comment. The title of that report is "The Laws We Have Can Do Nothing because of Measures and Orders That Inhibit the Removal of Buildings and Suspend the Payment of Fines." The report begins with the following question: What is to be done with more than 5,000 buildings in Cairo alone over which floors have been added in violation of all laws? Then the investigative report lists these violations. In some cases 12 floors were added to a building in al-Jizah Square, and 10 floors were added to a building in al-Zamalik. Then the report provides this highly indicative and significant incident as it was told by the chief of the neighborhood of Central Cairo. "Since I became neighborhood chief, I have not received a single order to remove a building [in response to] the reports we filed. Furthermore, someone built a structure on the planning line, so I sent two engineers, one male and one female, to have the building removed by an administrative decision which I am by law entitled to make. But then the prosecutor's office issued warrants for the arrest of the neighborhood's two engineers on the eve of last Bairam, and they were going to be taken to court."

Ahmad Salit, chief of Misr al-Jadidah neighborhood says, "We have 250 buildings to which floors have been added in violation of regulations. Some of these buildings have had up to 10 floors added to them. To put an end to these violations until the courts look into the reports that were filed on these violations, I tried to deprive those buildings of electricity and drinking water. That method was actually quite successful in bringing those violations to a standstill for a while. However, court rulings that were issued later forced me to extend water and electricity to the floors that have building permits and, of course, I carried out the court orders knowing beforehand that the landlords will extend water and electricity to those floors they had added to their buildings in violation of regulations. But what can I do?"

Those who are actually responsible [for enforcing these regulations] are wondering what they should do. If they do not have actual enforcement powers, what is the use of enacting laws that would increase their imaginary powers when they are unable to enforce the laws that are on the books now? Let us define the hidden forces (the phenomenon) that shape matters according to the interests of these forces and their interests only.

It is also important to follow up on the investigative reports that AL-AHRAM initiated. In the 12 February 1982 issue suggestions began coming in on how to confront the problem of floors that were being added to buildings in violation of regulations. All these suggestions favored not removing those floors that were added in violation of regulations if they would not cause the building to collapse. But why is it that the following question was not raised? Why should the floors that were built in violation of regulations be left intact? Why should a compromise be made on violations? This obviously makes violations of the law an established principle perpetrated under the guise of solving the housing problem. Will these floors really make a contribution to solving the housing problem? Who pays for these floors and who lives in them? If we want to set up our assumptions on a sound, practical foundation, we ought to consider who is adding floors to buildings in violation of regulations. We ought to consider in which neighborhoods these floors are being added, and we ought to consider who is

getting something out of the addition of these floors. Is it people on fixed incomes? Is it consulting firms? Or is it new companies? At the end of the investigative report the minister of housing stated in the 19 February 1982 issue of AL-AHRAM, "No buildings will be expropriated, and no fines will be imposed. We too are responsible. We are now drafting a new law that will make a judgment for damages mandatory. The damages will correspond to the value of the floors that were built in violation of regulations."

Let us pause here briefly to cite an example from France, a capitalist country where those who are in power now are followers of the Socialist Party. About 1 month ago the French courts ruled that a single story dwelling be torn down because it blocked the sun from an adjacent house. That house was built in a manner that was not consistent with the general plan for the neighborhood. A fine was also imposed on the owner of the house.

Indeed we are not in France. Although Egyptian law gives a neighbor the right to have a view, the application of the law is something different because it does not give expression to what is social practice. This is another aspect of legitimizing what had happened. However, we decided that we would not deal much with this area, and that we will let men of the legal profession express their opinions on the matter.

The other example has to do with encroachment on state land and farm land, which is also a phenomenon that became widespread. Our official newspapers as well as opposition newspapers have discussed this phenomenon which is essentially not different from that of adding floors to buildings in violation of regulations. Nor is it different from the phenomenon of residential buildings that collapse and from the phenomenon of Rashad 'Uthman and Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy, and so on.

The 19 April 1982 issue of AL-AHRAR quoted the minister of reconstruction and housing stating the following: "The minister is asking the governor of Cairo to reduce the price of the land that was seized illegally." What is curious about the matter--it was normal in Egypt at that time--is that this land was seized by the companies of the Ministry of Housing. What did the minister ask for? The minister asked the governor to issue directives to have the estimated prices of this land reconsidered and calculated on the basis of prices that were prevalent when these companies submitted bids to purchase this land that was seized illegally. The minister said that the structures which the companies built on the land had improved the value of the land and caused prices to rise. As the late Dr Mahmud al-Qadi said in his response to 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book, "Al-Buyut al-Zujajiyah" [Houses of Glass], this is honestly and truly what the minister said. It is exactly what he said.

Was it a coincidence that this was published in the same issue of AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in which the investigative report on the collapse of buildings was published, or was it a clever process of collation? [The latter report is] an investigative article that asks why ministers were not questioned and why they were not asked to account for their actions.

The 22 February 1982 issue of AL-AKHBAR contained a decree whose social significance, from our point of view, is no secret to anyone. The economics editor of AL-AKHBAR wrote, "Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhi al-Din will soon issue a decree

legitimizing the encroachments that occurred on state property where major industrial projects, food security projects or residential buildings were built. The decree that was to be issued by the prime minister included regulatory principles legitimizing the transfer of ownership of this land to those individuals who seized it illegally and regulating the payments they were to make for this land according to prices that were prevalent when they took possession of it. The terms of payment would be easy to maintain the stability of their living conditions and to ensure that no harm would come to projects that were already built and that were now employing a large number of workers and adding to the national economy. Thus, floors that were added to buildings in violation of regulations help solve the housing problem, and the illegal seizure of state-owned land helps stimulate the national economy. Why then weep over the ruins of a building that collapsed because it was not built according to specifications? Those who lost their lives under the ruins of collapsing buildings were buried under the ruins for the general good!

We will cite another final example before we begin analyzing our point of view, relying on events. Speaking of Bayyumi [sic?], the 22 January 1982 issue of AL-AHRAM stated the following under the titled of "Bayyumi's Logic:" "The president of the Cooperative Housing Society for Employees of the Civil Aviation Sector, Engineer Ibrahim Najib said, 'We submitted the required papers to get the [building] permits from the neighborhood of Misr al-Jadidah. The measures are underway, but the society has not yet received the building permit. To avoid wasting time, we started construction until the permit is issued.' "

We can go on citing endless statements and examples. However, we ought to try analyzing the reasons for these phenomena to avoid getting bogged down in imaginary solutions. We will deal with the economic, social and ideological aspects of the problem, which we will summarize as follows:

1. A new kind of investor flourished under the open-door policy. We can call this investor a leech-like investor because he does not contribute to the process of production. Instead, he thrives on it, and he operates with the logic of "Take the money and run." He moves very easily from one investment sector to another since his capital is not tied to machines and equipment but is rather commercial liquid capital. What that investor wants is to realize the highest profit possible in the shortest period of time without taking any risks. His goal is not to develop the forces of production or to accumulate capital in a rational and an economic manner to reinvest it in the same field in a planned fashion. If he finds that real estate will realize a higher profit for him in a short period of time, he will invest in real estate. If he finds that importing and exporting will be more profitable, he will move into that activity. If he finds that buying and selling farm land is more profitable, he will do that too. Actually, that is an area that requires a large amount of capital at the outset. [To him], there are no barriers for going into any of these areas. That investor acts in a climate that allows him to make investments in those areas without any controls. He is vociferous in asking that private capital be given full freedom. That investor does not respect the law of the marketplace. Instead, he destroys the market, which thus loses its integration. In the seventies there was an unprecedented mad rush by capital to invest in the construction of luxurious and above average housing for sale. Returns on such investments are fast because there is a demand for such housing since people's buying power has grown due to the fact that

people became wealthy under the open-door policy and well-to-do Egyptians abroad transferred funds to acquire luxurious apartments in Egypt and so on. However, because of the continued rise in land prices as a result of land speculation, vertical density, rising wages because workers are emigrating to Arab countries and the rise in prices of construction materials, returns on investments in the field of construction will be neither high nor quick unless the following conditions are met:

--Ownership is conferred and payment for the housing unit is made over a period of 24 months before construction is begun and while construction is underway. One can see advertisements of that in newspapers. This realizes a rapid turnover of capital, and investors risk only a very small percentage of their own capital. In fact, they borrow money without paying interest.

--Construction is begun without a permit because time would be gained, and that has an effect on the duration of the cycle.

--Costs are to be reduced to a minimum and prices are to be raised to a maximum. This can be done by taking illegal possession of the land and calculating the interest rate in the cost per unit.

--Buildings are to be expanded vertically and maximum use is to be made of the land without any regard for the law which set the ratio of the area of construction to the area of a lot to 60 percent and 40 percent, respectively, and without any regard to the proportionate height of buildings--one and a half times the width of the street. Costs are also to be reduced by cheating on construction materials and not following specifications. This has an effect on the ability of a building to withstand and endure. Eventually, it would collapse.

This was done in the context of a far-reaching plan that called for private capital to be free and unrestricted without conditions or controls so that the housing problem can be solved. Is the private sector actually helping to solve the housing problem? For whom does the private sector build? Is the private sector building housing for people on fixed incomes? (See the article by Dr Mahya Zaytun on this matter in AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI).

--An ideology of making a fast profit at any cost and as fast as possible has prevailed and is still prevailing in Egyptian society. Achieving success and climbing the social ladder by means of a private project are desirable. A private project here is not necessarily one whose aim is the public good; a private project is mostly an import and export project, a project for dividing and selling land, or a project for investing in real estate or in boutiques. There are books on the market providing models for such projects that many people think about in a society whose slogan is no longer that of the words of the song by [the late] 'Abd-al-Halim Hafiz, "For our production we fight waste." The slogan now is rather that of lining one's pockets. An individual is no longer valued according to his ability to produce, but rather according to his ability to evade the law. Thus, we've had a brain drain, and qualified people have left the country.

It can thus be said that the problem here stems from the fact that a mode of social conduct has become prevalent in society. The economic import of that mode of social conduct is justified ideologically in an epoch in which the state has

given up completely on organized national planning, on setting the right course for production, on guiding capital investments and also on savings.

Public sector companies, some senior state officials, mid-level state officials, large private capital, the small commodities sector and individuals are adopting the same [mode of] conduct. They are encroaching on state-owned land; they are not honoring the law; they are building without permits; they are not following specifications--consider the collapse of al-Zamalik Bridge before its inauguration; they do not care about the public welfare; they are making light of national interests; and they are increasing Egypt's dependence on imported food. Egypt is importing 60 percent of the food we need. At the same time buildings are taking up every year from one to two percent of the fertile land around Cairo alone, about 60,000 feddans of fertile land every year. But we are told not to worry because the al-Salhiyah Project will solve the problem!

The buildings that are collapsing as a result of the fact that they do not comply with specifications are nothing but a manifestation of an acute crisis in society. They are also an indication of the blatant collusion between many and numerous agencies whose responsibilities are interrelated.

Finally, this must be said and repeated continuously: let us begin analyzing and describing with total candor the real reasons for the phenomena that have become widespread in our society. Let us face them with courage without resorting to partial solutions. Let us propose no band-aid remedies that we know in advance will have a limited effect. We do not need band-aid solutions; what we rather need is a radical amputation of that which ails us. The question is this: are we capable of that?

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CREATION OF VIABLE MONEY MARKET DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 751, 6 Jun 83 pp 10-13

[Interview with Counselor Mahmud Fahmi, head of Money Market Commission by Mustafa Imam: "Head of Money Market Commission Tells AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, 'Our Role Is To Set Up a Climate To Attract Local Savings for Production Projects' "]

[Text] Egypt has the basic components for a regional financial market for the Middle East as well as those for an international market with Europe and Asia.

At the end of the international conference that was held to stimulate Egypt's money market, AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI interviewed Counselor Mahmud Fahmi, chairman of the board of directors of the Money Market Commission to discuss the final conclusions reached by the conference and the executive steps the commission will be trying to take to set up a climate that would stimulate Egypt's money market.

Counselor Fahmi said, "Egypt has the resources for establishing a regional and an international capital market. But we must first stimulate the local market. At the present time the commission is starting to take executive measures to set up a climate that would stimulate this market.

"The commission has completed drafting a bill regulating the leasing of equipment. It has also completed drafting measures permitting brokerage firms to do business, and it is now considering drafting a comprehensive bill for the money market in Egypt."

Counselor Fahmi said, "The commission will need a strong push during the next stage to play its part. Therefore, a law must be issued instead of the present presidential decree, establishing the commission so we can coordinate [the activities] of the agencies that do business in the market and actually monitor [those activities] to ensure the rights of shareholders."

[Question] Now that the conference has ended, what in your view are the resources that are currently available to Egypt to establish an international capital market?

Egypt's Resources

[Answer] It seems to me that in order to establish in Egypt a regional capital

market and then an international market, we must first stimulate the local market. This is what the studies [that were presented] at the conference dealt with. In my opinion Egypt has all the basic components [that are required] for setting up a local, regional and international capital market. Financial experts agree that three or four basic and essential ingredients must be available for such a market. These are a central geographical location and specialized financial and banking systems operating at a high level of efficiency within the market. The market is not just a stock exchange, but it is also a banking system; it is systems for collecting savings, and it is also a stock exchange or a secondary market for negotiable papers. These ingredients are available in Egypt. In addition to the savings that will finance the market, there are the savings that are accumulated by Egyptians in the country and by Egyptians working abroad. There are also Arab capital surpluses that the Egyptian market hopes to attract in the near future.

Spontaneous Resources

At any rate establishment of a local capital market must rely basically on spontaneous resources.

A local market cannot address the outside world unless it is an active market, performing a service regionally and world wide according to internationally recognized standards.

This is because there is competition for capital. Capital does, of course, go wherever the greatest profit can be realized, where organization is rigorous and where channels of communication [are open and allow the easy flow of information]. It's been noticed that the market we have at the present time has relied on spontaneous resources. If one were to look at the projects that were established in accordance with the Arab and Foreign Investment Law, one would find that 62 per cent of the capital was Egyptian.

Political Stability

[Question] What measures do you think would be important then to stimulate the local capital market at the present time?

[Answer] It is certain that one cannot solicit local private savings for investments in [local] production projects unless the road to that is smooth. Let me say that since the first law was issued--Law Number 65 for 1971--at the start of the open-door policy, the government has been sparing no effort to achieve this goal. The government then backed up the open-door policy by issuing Law Number 43 for 1974. This law was amended by Law Number 32 for 1977, closing the loopholes in the [former] law that became evident in the course of application. It must be emphasized that there is a principal connection between political stability and [actions taken] to adopt new economic policies. When Law Number 65 for 1971 was issued, it was issued after the country's permanent constitution was promulgated because one cannot solicit investments from Arab or foreign investors unless one has a permanent constitution. Also Law Number 43 for 1974 was issued after a major military accomplishment was achieved in the October War. There were new variables in the region as a result of that military accomplishment. The open-door policy could not have been strengthened before the 1973 war because conditions then were not conducive to making investments. After the war, however, the

climate was inclined to have bold steps taken to carry out the economic liberalization policy. Like all other experiences, this one had its negative points as well as its positive points. Therefore, the state thought it should not concentrate on Arab and foreign capital only, but that it must also have another leg to lean on. It must rely on private Egyptian funds which must be encouraged to take part in the development process. Therefore, the necessary climate must be prepared to encourage those local funds to invest [in local development projects]. Thus, the Egyptian Money Market Commission was established by Presidential Decree Number 520 for 1979. This decree was issued after studies were conducted for 2 and a half years with international and local organizations. The function of the commission can be stated in one sentence: to try to set up a climate in which local savings can be channeled primarily into production projects.

After the commission was established, the state took steps to encourage investments. Among those steps was one that enacted a new law for joint-stock companies, for partnerships limited by shares and for limited liability companies. One of the most important provisions of this law is one that would [formally] establish a company 60 days after all documents are submitted to the committee that examines applications from companies. In this new law all obstacles that companies used to face in setting themselves up for business according to the old Law Number 26 for 1954 were overcome. Thus, in only 5 months after the new law was issued--from November 1982 to May 1983--71 new companies were established with a [total] capital of 44 million pounds. Among these 71 companies are approximately 28 joint-stock companies whose capital is 33 million pounds. These companies are involved in housing, land development and real estate investments. This means that the private sector is trying to make a contribution to solve the housing problem. These new companies are also involved in tourist projects, in food security projects and in other activities. This means, [on the one hand], that the investment tendencies of the private sector are consistent with the priorities of the development plan. On the other hand, the new tax law incorporated many of the commission's recommendations, particularly regarding equal tax treatment for investing in stock and investing in savings accounts. Therefore, an investor who deposits his money in a bank so he can collect interest at the end of the year will think twice before doing so when he finds he can get the same advantage if he invests his funds in stocks. Besides, when he invests in stocks, there is a chance that he will realize a greater profit if the value of the stock rises.

The Stock Exchange Act has also been amended, making registration measures as well as trading measures easier.

Nevertheless, amidst the discussions that took place at the conference, some people asked that tax advantages be used as a means for stimulating the money market. For example, more tax advantages could be granted to companies that make their shares available to the public than to closed corporations.

This would be done to increase the number of people who own stock and who trade in the stock market.

Also from the standpoint of taxes, under the current tax law people who invest 3,000 pounds or 30 percent of their annual income in the first issue of stock by new companies are exempted from the annual income tax. It is my opinion that this idea could be developed further, and the exemption can be extended to investors who buy stock for 10,000 pounds, for example. Each year, such investors would

be exempted from paying taxes on 30,000 pounds. The same advantage could also be applied to those who buy stock from the first contributors.

The Interest Rate as a Weapon

The interest rate may also be used to encourage investments. At the present time 50 percent of the profit per share is exempted from taxes. We can expand that exemption to 100 percent and exempt the profits earned by shares from the general income tax.

The same [principle] would apply to the securities of companies that are established in accordance with the investment law and that are paid for in foreign currency. The present investment law allows owners of these securities to convert them into foreign currency abroad. The sale of these securities could be made easier by having the Central Bank allow brokers to convert the securities directly through the banks, instead of going through the numerous measures they have to go through at the present time. However, brokers would have to submit a monthly record [of such transactions] to the Central Bank so that the state can monitor these transactions. This will provide considerable help to investors in new projects.

[Question] Why did you call at the conference for a new law for the commission instead of the present presidential decree?

[Answer] The present powers of the commission afford it some authority to exercise control. For example, the commission has the right to attend stockholders' meetings, to receive [copies of] companies' budgets and to review general subscription activity since there are basic data that must be included in a stockholders' list when a company is established. These are measures that would undoubtedly reassure the public. But these powers that the commission has are powers that are afforded to it by presidential decree. If they are afforded to it by statute, the commission would be more effective. Other public agencies operating in the money market at the present time were established by statute, such as the banking agency, the Central Bank, the Insurance and Insurance Companies Control Commission and various insurance funds. In order for the commission to be effective in stimulating and monitoring the market, it must be a statutory commission, and the statute that is issued to establish the commission must give it these powers.

[Question] What do you mean by monitoring the market?

[Answer] I do not mean interfering with the nature and independence of agencies that do business in the market. However, because the decisions and activities of these agencies affect what happens in the market, deliberations between the commission and these agencies must be continuous. For example, we may make a proposal to the Central Bank regarding the interest rate which directly affects investments in stocks and bonds. We may also propose to insurance companies, for example, that they move part of their savings to securities or to companies. Thus, the proposed law will enable the commission to coordinate activities with these agencies.

The Commission Is not a Dominating Body

[Question] When you say coordinate, do you mean making the commission's instructions mandatory for these agencies?

[Answer] No, I do not mean making those instructions mandatory. This coordination exists at the present time, but it takes place in meetings. For example, it would take place in a meeting of the board of directors of the Money Market Commission or a meeting of the Commission on Investments. What I mean is that there be a general policy to be followed. The Money Market Commission is not a dominating commission, nor does it try to be. It is an auxiliary and an assisting commission. Agencies doing business in the market are independent agencies, and their work must not be interfered with because they know their business best. However, all these agencies collectively influence the market; they have the power to stimulate the market or to make it sluggish. Accordingly, coordination is desirable, even between these agencies. The commission will bring about this coordination through the indicators it receives from stock market activity [reports]. There are quarterly, semi-annual and annual statistics from the stock market; there are statistics about joint-stock companies or closed corporations; and there are statistics about the kinds of activities these companies are engaged in. Thus, for example, the commission may propose that insurance companies invest their financial surpluses in certain projects instead of in real estate.

The Law Is Imperative

[Question] Do you think that the present status of the commission keeps it from playing that role?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the present status of the commission keeps it from playing that role. I believe that establishing the commission by presidential decree in the past period was a suitable proposition, but in the next period this commission must be statutory.

[Question] What are your views on the idea and the kinds of guarantees that the commission can provide to stockholders?

[Answer] Let me give a few examples to clarify this idea. In France there is a commission that monitors market operations. This commission has the authority to file general charges and criminal charges against companies that commit violations. It can file charges against company officials or against brokers who tamper with the market. This means that if an official or a firm were to fail to meet its obligations, causing damage to stockholders, that official or that firm would be summoned, questioned and given an opportunity to defend itself. However, if the investigation proves that the official or the firm is guilty, general charges against either one would be filed, and either the official or the firm would be turned over to the public prosecutor. Such powers are not intended to control the market, but rather to provide reassurance in the market.

Furthermore, in the United States, companies are not allowed to sell their shares on the market or to invite the public to buy their shares unless they've printed a pamphlet containing studies about the company's projects, expected profitability and the company's future projects for 5 or 10 years.

Here in Egypt, of course, companies cannot be asked to provide these publications or studies before specialized firms that would perform such services are established. These firms would be called brokerage firms. The public is also entitled to know the information they want to know about companies. This information can be relayed to the public by means of a department that would be established within the commission; this department, which would be called The Department of Information, would analyze data about companies and [would provide the data to buyers]. The stock market must also have such a department. Companies or brokers' offices can carry out or be allowed to carry out this activity provided that they have the capabilities for doing so. A comprehensive law for an Egyptian money market can deal with all this. It seems to me that that comprehensive law must comprise the broad lines for regulating the money market. These may be summarized as follows:

1. How the activities of agencies doing business in the market can be coordinated.
2. Reorganizing the Money Market Commission to make it a more effective tool for monitoring the market and coordinating the activities of agencies doing business in the market.
3. Introducing new activities in the market to stimulate it.
4. The kinds of securities that are sold in general. The particulars of regulating securities of each kind would be covered by other laws. The comprehensive law would comprise, for example, the basic components of a share or the basic components of Islamic securities. [Other] details would be covered by the corporations' law and dealt with exclusively in a section of that new law.

Several Bills

[Question] What are the executive steps the commission has taken to implement these ideas?

[Answer] We drafted a bill to regulate the leasing of equipment. We will submit that bill to the present session or the next session of the People's Assembly. There is a draft bill setting up a general framework for the activities of brokerage firms and for feasibility studies. There is a preliminary draft bill for a comprehensive capital law. Such a law requires an exhaustive study as well as deliberations with all agencies doing business in the market.

The commission will compile all the discussions and proposals that were made at the conference and summarize them in specific recommendations that we will present to the minister of investments and international cooperation. We hope one of them will be implemented.

The Currency Exchange Market

[Question] There are those who think that the application of the open-door policy in the previous period led to the emergence of a large currency exchange market at the expense of the money market. How do you think the currency exchange market can be utilized to serve the money market?

[Answer] Placements that were made for loans offered by banks were short-term.

These loans were mostly made to finance consumer oriented import and export operations. The Central Bank began charging a variable interest rate to encourage agricultural and industrial activity. This means that the Central Bank began using the interest rate to finance long-term investments. It seems to me that specialty banks, such as development banks and agricultural and industrial credit banks, can stimulate long-term investments.

A Free Currency Market Is not Essential

[Question] Some people think that establishment of a free currency exchange market is essential to stimulate the money market. What do you think about that?

[Answer] I think that it is not necessary at the present time to establish a free currency exchange market as long as we have a deficit in the balance of trade and in the balance of payments. It would not be in the national interest to float the Egyptian pound because its position would be weaker in relation to other currencies. That is unless there is improvement in the balance of trade and in the balance of payments. The minister of the economy issued two decrees removing some goods out of adjudication committees and [allowing] exporters to keep the proceeds from most of their exports. It seems to me that this means giving exporters the freedom to set prices that are consistent with world prices for the goods they export. These prices may be higher than those set by the adjudication committees. Accordingly, these prices will be subject to [the laws of] supply and demand. I think that removing monetary restrictions on exports will promote export increases.

On the other hand, support could be given to projects that produce goods we are importing now. These goods would replace imports. This would undoubtedly help reduce the deficit in the balance of trade and reduce our commitments to the outside world.

A Free Currency Market Will Have No Effect

[Question] Do you believe, as others do, that the failure to establish a free currency market will not have a negative effect on stimulating the money market?

[Answer] Let me affirm that not establishing a free currency market at the present time will have no effect on the activity of the money market since most of the stocks and bonds that are bought and sold on the market are paid for in Egyptian pounds. Also people who paid for their stocks and bonds in foreign currency are allowed to convert the value of those securities outside the country. Accordingly, the rate of exchange is not a factor in the process since the buyer pays dollars for his purchases, sells the stocks and bonds for dollars and transfers his dollars outside the country. On the other hand, there is no demand for the Egyptian pound; therefore, the rate of exchange does not come into play. Thus, the rate of exchange at this stage is not called for. But if demand for the Egyptian pound were to begin or if expenses incurred in the country were to be paid in Egyptian pounds, the rate of exchange would then come into play.

Why Brazil?

[Question] In the context of benefiting from the experiences of other countries

in establishing an international money market, it was proposed that we might benefit from Brazil's experience. What similarities are there between Brazil and Egypt to make us likely to benefit from its experience?

[Answer] Brazil is one of the largest countries in Latin America. Its political and social prestige is considerable there, and it has been trying to become a regional money market for Latin American countries. As far as Egypt is concerned, Egypt's geographical location is distinctive, even more so than Brazil's. There is a 1-hour difference between us and the countries of western Europe and all the stock exchanges operating there. Accordingly, our work hours are close to theirs. There is also a 3-hour difference between us and Asian countries and, consequently, we can catch up with their work hours. Egypt also has all the necessary agencies for establishing a capital market; it has banking agencies that can mobilize investments; and it has a financial surplus.

The similarities between us and Brazil lie in the rate of growth, in the number of people and in the political and social prestige [each country has] in its [respective] region. The Brazilians are trying to make Brazil become a regional market [in Central America], and we are trying to become a regional market in the Middle East. This is not new for Egypt. We have been a leading regional market in the region, and our stock exchange was the sixth stock exchange in the world and the third exchange for trading commodities.

As relations with Arab countries improve, we will be trying in the near future to join the Federation of Arab Stock Markets after the stock market in Egypt becomes an active market. This federation would coordinate activities between Arab stock markets, and there is a good tendency for that. Kuwait is trying to organize a stock market after [organizing] the one in al-Manakh, and the establishment of a stock market in Bahrain and another one in Saudi Arabia is being considered. The compatibility of these trends will undoubtedly bring about coordination.

The Meaning of an International Market

[Question] What is the establishment of an international capital market in Egypt intended to accomplish?

[Answer] It is intended to maintain relations between markets in Cairo and Alexandria and markets throughout the world. Markets in Cairo and Alexandria would receive purchase and sale orders from these markets throughout the world and would send out similar orders to these markets. There are indications that we are being accepted. The National Bank was able to issue bonds worth 30 million pounds in the London market, an international market that would not have allowed the National Bank to issue these bonds were it not confident about its position and its international prestige. This is undoubtedly a major gain for Egypt. It is true that the IBRD guaranteed the National Bank, but that means that the National Bank is trustworthy.

In Egypt efforts are being made to encourage this international trend. For example, foreign brokers are allowed to do business in Egypt's stock markets with Egyptian brokers as their correspondents. There is no doubt that the arrival in Egypt of representatives of specialized international companies, such as Marie (La Fiche) and others, to explore the Egyptian market and to look into the possibility of investing in that market and doing business in it means that the

purchase and sale of the stock of foreign companies may be permitted in Egypt's stock markets, provided these companies are registered in Egypt's stock market.

Let me assure you that activity in the stock market is not indicated by the figures. However, the Egyptian stock market is on the verge of prospering. The volume of trade during the first 4 months of this year reached 5.4 million pounds, compared with 1 million pounds for the same period last year. This is an indication of the fact that trading is becoming active. It is true that the rise in the number of securities from 66 last year to 122 till last December is not an indication that trading is active, but the mere registration of companies in the stock market, even the registration of closed corporations, [is significant] since the shares of such corporations may be made available for subscription to the general public at a later date.

The Kind of Assistance

[Question] What kind of assistance does the commission receive from international agencies to stimulate activity in Egypt's stock market?

[Answer] U.S. AID offered a program to strengthen the activities of agencies doing business in the private sector. In the course of this program U.S. AID is training employees of the Money Market Commission. The International Development Agency of the IBRD has also contributed to three or four projects with the private sector to encourage the private sector to invest. [In those cases] when the company can stand on its feet, the agency gives up its share in the company and sells its stock to the general public.

Let me say that the conference provided an opportunity for many directors of international financial companies, for brokerage firms and for experienced financial firms to explore the capital market [in Egypt] and to consider the possibilities of investing in it.

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SEVERAL THOUSAND NEW TEACHERS TO BE APPOINTED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] It has been decided to appoint 30,000 teachers to all instructional levels over the next 2 months before the beginning of the coming school year, 10,000 of whom will be graduates of the teachers' centers and continuing studies centers, while 20,000 will be graduates of the teaching colleges and universities. All of the measures needed for appointments and senior staff transfers both at the central and local levels will be completed for the teachers by the first of next September.

Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister for education and scientific research, issued his directives to the directors of education and instruction on the pressing need to implement the special policies concentrating on the expansion of technical education in general and industrial education in particular. They also set out the need to prepare classes licenced for high school instruction, prohibiting the opening of new classes, and laying down special regulations for admission into the first year of high school through special instruction schools without violating ministry policy for expanding technical education schools.

The directives also included the pressing need for enlarging class size in the primary school levels, assisting students in the industrial secondary schools to undertake repair and maintenance works on all the schools in return for token wages on the condition that they complete all these works in the next 6 weeks.

The directors committee for education and instruction at the national level already held a meeting yesterday chaired by Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi to follow all of the measures that the ministry has taken for developing and modernizing curriculums, the means of instruction, the evaluation and examinations system, and the special methods to raise standards of educational administration, in addition to means of inculcating proper behavior and socialization as an educational goal.

Mr Mansur Husayn, deputy minister, and Dr Muhammad Abu al-'Ala, first under-secretary of the ministry and the undersecretaries were in attendance.

The directives which the deputy prime minister issued to the directors of education and instruction included the pressing need to prepare licenced classes in high school instruction, to prohibit the opening of new classes, and to lay down special regulations for admission into the first year of high school through special instruction schools without violating ministry policy on expanding the technical education schools.

The pressing need was confirmed to increase class size in the primary school level and not to lower school admission age, which is now 6, for first-graders, except when class size does not reach 45 students per class.

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MARKED INCREASE OF CAIRO AIRPORT FREIGHT ACTIVITY

Cario AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] The freight yard at Cario Airport witnessed an unprecedented and sizeable increase in the movement of both imported and exported goods during the fiscal year ending 30 June. In spite of the Egypt Air Company carrying something like 39 percent of all imported freight items, the increase achieved during this past year amounted to 14.4 percent over that of last year. Other foreign companies that carry 61 percent of the total of imports did not have increased in the number of their shipments exceeding more than 17 percent over last year. The total of incoming shipments during the last year came to 2,470,967 Egyptian pounds, an increase of 680,000 pounds over the same representative period in the previous fiscal year, that is an increase of 38 percent.

This increase has come about as a result of the increase of shipments on the one hand that has resulted in an increase in revenues from warehousing services by 31 percent, and has resulted in an increase of new warehouses required by the customs authority because of the cost of antiquated warehouses, which cost 16,825 pounds.

Also there was a 13.3 percent increase in clearing charges revenues; a 35 percent increase in income from the police approval service; and a 501.3 percent increase in reception fees for the foreign companies.

There has been no less an important increase in the revenues from exports. The total of revenues from exports for last year amounted to a sum of 1,472,127 pounds, which was an increase of 380,730 pounds or 35 percent over the previous year.

Out of this the freight section of Egypt Air, headed by Mahmud Uthman, has earned a total income of 4,101,414 pounds while earned income for the previous year was only 2,978,692 pounds. That is an increase in income of 1,113,722 pounds or 37.7 percent.

The unusual matter here, as Muhammad Fuhaym Rayyan, president of the board of directors of Egypt Air, has said is that the desired goal to be reached for the freight section had been set at an income amounting to the sum of 3.82 million pounds, meaning that the actual goal achieved showed a 145.4 increase.

This gives an idea of the economic growth that has been achieved both in exports and imports.

There's another important observation that Mahmud Ulthman, chief of the freight section at Egypt Air, pointed out: namely that the state puts extreme importance on this and gives unrestricted encouragements to increasing exports which is made clear by:

--It has modified freight costs to Europe as of last May in order to promote exports which can have a large affect on increasing exports.

--17.4 percent increase in freight carried to Africa.

--55 percent increase in freight carried to Asia.

--340.5 percent increase in transfers of foreign airlines. This is an increase that was achieved this year and proportionately it exceeds any previous year; all evidence that the coming years will see a large growth in exports.

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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION TO BE COMPLETED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Eng Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy, announced that the ministry will complete this year the electrification of 250 new villages and the consolidation of 125 other cities and villages. This will include a feeder line to all the principal villages (5250 villages) in every governorate within the electricity system and followed by initiation of work on the al-Kafur and al-Naju' electricity projects.

He added that the ministry had finished a plan for the repair of accidents, electricity generation failures, or overloads in the power transmission network, up until the year 2000. Likewise the plan which will cost 71 million pounds, includes 250 kilometers of electric transmission lines, and the building of 12 transformer stations both in Upper and Lower Egypt.

He explained that the ministry's strategy for electric power is divided into 10 year and 5 year plans until the year 2000. It includes a program of electric generation, and power transmission and distribution to the industrial consumption centers, to agricultural centers, to public facilities, and residences.

He said that 95 percent of the projected goals for the first year of the 1982-87 5-year plan has been accomplished, since all the electric transformer stations, branch lines, and distribution stations have been set up, and all the switching stations and the generating stations in Abu Qir, al-Mahmudiyah, Abu Sultan, al-Suyuf and al-Salihiyah have been built.

He affirmed that these steps would add nearly a million kilowatts to the existing system by the end of this current year.

He said that the Naja' Hammadi Aluminum factory was supplied with the power it needed last month. It amounted to 80,000 kilowatts, and through this the factory has gotten its full energy needs which come to 400,000 kilowatts. This is an example of what the High Dam produces.

The minister pointed out that average growth in demand for energy has jumped in the past year to 14 percent per year. It is reckoned to be the highest rate of growth in electricity demand in the world.

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BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION--MAYU will present a new newspaper service beginning next week. MAYU will devote two complete pages in every issue to respond to what opposition newspapers so distortedly publish as truthful. MAYU will publish on these two pages all the responses sent to it by officials and citizens to what the opposition press publishes. And they will include facts, documents and figures. MAYU presents this newspaper service freely out of its faith in the truthfulness of the people in getting at the truth, and out of its conviction that it is necessary to respond to some of the false claims and attempt to deceive the masses. The doors at MAYU are open everyone to respond and reply, to defend the truth, and in one discussion we can arrive at the truth, the goal we strive after. This new newspaper service presented by MAYU is in reality a service for the truth which must be the foundation of every stage of our life. So until next week. [Text] [Cairo MAYU in Arabic 1 Aug 83 p 1] 9587

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NEW REGULATIONS AFFECT SPONSORSHIP OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Manama AL-BAHRAYN in Arabic No 719, 6 Jul 83, pp 12-14

[Article by 'Abdallah al-'Abassi: "After Successfully Completing the Secondary Stage, How Do They Complete Their University Studies? What Are Their Desires, and How Do We Meet Them?"]

[Excerpts] A New System for Overseas Students

Dr Rashid Muhammad 'Ali Sulaybikh, the acting director of the Office of Overseas Students in the Ministry of Education, says that the system of sending students overseas has been changed in recent years. While the concentration in sending study missions abroad always used to be on the needs of the ministry, taking into account the needs of Bahrain as a whole for both official bureaus and the private sector, now other official offices and various private organizations have begun to send students themselves. As an example, BANACO and the Ministry of Public Works are sending students in the various specialties that they require on their own, and within their own budgets. In the past, for example, the Office of Overseas Students in the Ministry of Education received applications from ministries and organizations to send students for specialization in those fields specified by those authorities, while the ministry would contact the universities to obtain the acceptances.

Today, said Dr Rashid, "Each authority has begun to send students on its own, without recourse to us, and at the expense of the ministry that has the requirement. However, we are consulted from time to time.

"The new method or system is characterized by the ministries or organizations being able to better perceive their selection and observe at first hand the development of their progress in the studies. It also reduces the burden on the Ministry of Education."

End of the Study Missions' Duplication

Dr Rashid continued his conversation about the new system with regard to overseas students by saying: "Despite the fact that there are some positive aspects of the new system, with the organizations and ministries managing their own requirements, this situation has resulted in a certain amount of duplication. In order to put an end to this duplication that sometimes occurs,

an idea has been raised for discussion, to the effect that a single official authority should manage the coordination in sending students abroad, whether those being sent are officials or students, so that this authority can coordinate with all the official quarters in the state to ascertain their requirements in terms of the various specialties, and to determine the true picture, with respect to sending students, in light of these requirements."

Dr Rashid stressed: "This method will be the ideal method in terms of its ability to control matters effectively. It is the only method that will ensure elimination of the duplication and repetition in certain specialties."

Learning Students' Desires

[Question] Does learning the desires of the students going abroad for study make university study more purposeful in terms of the whole student?

[Answer] This is practically the only standard, but there are other ways of assisting, such as finding out the choice. When the student fills out his forms, he indicates his first, second and third choices and, consequently, nearly all students are put within the circle of their choices. In practice, the student is not forced to take a specific field of specialization, if he does not wish to pursue what is available, since in the event he refuses, he has every option to refuse or accept and, consequently, he can himself search for any college he wishes, if he has obtained the approval of that university.

The list of overseas students was published early enough this year to give the students much of the information regarding colleges and materials, and the available scholarships both at home and abroad. This gave them the opportunity to learn what is available and to make an indepth study of what they must select.

Between the Mission and the Scholarship

Concerning the distinction between the mission and the grant, Dr Rashid said: "The ministry pays for sending the mission student as well as for his full expenses, whereas the scholarship is that which the ministry receives from various brotherly and friendly countries, especially the nations of this region. The nation that grants the scholarship pays its expenses. It happens that these scholarships can come from nations that have limited resources and a lower standard of living. Therefore, the ministry in some cases makes up for the shortfalls which such a mission does not include."

In the course of the conversation about grants, he referred to the fact that the grants that the ministry received each year from the Gulf nations especially have begun to decrease. Their number in the past few years has declined, and this might be attributable to the belief of these states that Bahrain now has a number of colleges and centers of higher studies. One must bear in mind, however, that we are still in need of these grants due to the large increase in the number of graduates and the limited spaces available in our university colleges in Bahrain.

What Do the Figures Say?

Concerning the statistics for ministry missions for this year, Dr Rashid said that a pamphlet entitled "Our Overseas Students" was published by the Office of Public Relations, containing all the available statistics and trends. What do these figures say?

For this year, the ministry has allocated a number of overseas students, distributed in the following manner: Arabic language, 60; Islamic studies, 20; English language, 86; Mathematics, 40; Physics, 14; Medicine, 10; Music, 16; Art, 4; Library science, 14; Science of teaching, 10; Physical education, 20; Commercial studies, 20; and Industrial studies, 50. This means that the total number of overseas students is 364, which is a very reasonable number considering Bahrain's resources. This is apart from 40 spaces that the ministry has allocated for students of higher studies, divided equally between ministry employees and graduates of the class of 1982-83. In addition, we have made 200 teachers available to take classes, along with giving them their full salaries.

Our Students Abroad

As regards Bahraini students sent abroad for study in Arab and foreign universities, statistics reveal the following:

The number of Bahraini students sent overseas to Arab and foreign universities, for the academic year 1982-83, total 273 sent by the ministry and 783 on scholarships granted by other nations, i.e., the total number of overseas students, listed in the ministry, is 1056 male and female students. There are 119 in various branches of engineering colleges, 21 in medical, dental and pharmaceutical colleges, 55 students in various branches of science colleges, 52 in business colleges, 70 in colleges of literature, and 20 in various political, legal and economic science colleges. It is expected that 166 students will graduate this year.

Regarding the number of students sent for study inside Bahrain, there are 182 in the College of Education, 217 in the Gulf College and 11 on grants in the Arab Gulf University.

Dr Rashid went on to say: "In fact, the percentage of students traveling abroad has declined, due to the growth of higher university educational institutions, and their development here, such as the Gulf College for Technology, Bahrain University College, the College of Health Sciences and the Gulf University."

The Level of Local Higher Education

[Question] What is your view of the level of institutes of higher education in Bahrain, if you were to compare them with other organizations in area nations or abroad?

[Answer] Regarding the level of university education and comparing them with universities and institutes of higher education abroad, it is difficult to determine their academic level in comparison with overseas. Discussing this matter is difficult, because our institutions that have recently appeared in Bahrain are new and require time and highly-qualified professors, as well as dependence upon the quality of students and the levels of those who matriculate. Students who have high averages are different from those who have low averages. Then there is the administrative skill necessary to manage the university, shape its future policies and to accompany the rapid development of technology with the pedagogical process.

Regarding the opportunities available for graduates of Bahraini universities, he said. "When graduates are employed, the quarter from which they have graduated is not considered. They are considered from the employment aspect as equal in terms of the government's employment standards. However, from the practical aspect, graduates of universities which have good reputations have more employment possibilities open up before them, especially graduates of foreign universities."

Matriculation In Foreign Universities

[Question] What are the conditions of matriculation in European and American universities?

[Answer] Obviously every European, American and Canadian university sets as a condition for accepting the student the passing of an English language examination.

The Department of Student Affairs in the American Embassy in Bahrain administers and supervises these examinations. These examinations are held several times each year, and the last dates for this year are 22 August and 28 November 1983.

Dr Rashid continued: "The examination for some universities in America, in addition to the TOFEL exam and another one called the S.A.T., can be taken at the Bahrain American School, in the al-Jafir area.

"There is another way to learn the language or to pass the examination, since it is possible for the student to sit for this matriculation exam in one of the English language learning centers belonging to the university in which he wishes to matriculate, so that he qualifies for the TOFEL exam." Dr Rashid Sulaybikh prefers that this examination be offered in Bahrain, because opportunities to offer the examination are numerous and the student can save on considerable expense. He added that the American universities also make it a condition that a financial guarantee be provided by the guardian, approved by one of the well-known banks, in order to make it clear that he is in a position to meet the student's expenses throughout the period of study at the university.

Just An Observation

Clearly, considerable sums are spent, whether by the ministries, organizations and firms, or by guardians, on students studying abroad. Therefore, we believe that we should expedite carrying out the idea that Dr 'Ali Muhammad Fakhru, the minister of education, raised concerning merging the university colleges and other centers of education, such as the Gulf College of Technology, into one university that would combine these scattered efforts. The fields of study could be expanded, and colleges satisfying local needs could be added, for a better way to reduce those expenses. This would be a new, practical and strong structure, whose programs could be provided out of the reality of the requirements of the nation and the region. All ministries, organizations and firms could share in supporting its budget, in addition to the government. We would therefore have killed several birds with one stone, with one important result being the protection of our children from certain western influences, which usually result from cultural blows far from our areas, so that they are not exposed to the experience of failure from which many students suffer, due to the separation from their country and being unable to adapt to those societies. It would also protect the funds that are squandered on foreign universities that have almost become organizations of commercial exploitation more than universities aimed at achieving the highest ideals in education. In addition, there is the goal of establishing a university that would bring considerable honor and esteem to the country on the local, Arab and world levels, especially since the nations of the world today pride themselves on universities that have high academic standards and are more distinguished than other universities.

7005

CS0: 4404/526

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

BANK LOANS TO GOVERNMENT--Manama, 6 Sep (WAKH)--In 1982 the commercial banks operating in Bahrain increased the amount of loans and trust facilities granted to the government sector by 202 percent over 1981. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today, an official source at the Bahrain monetary establishment said that the commercial banks operating in Bahrain granted loans in the amount of 23.9 million dinars to the government sector in 1982. Loans to the government did not exceed 7.9 million dinars in 1981. [Summary] [GF071402 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Sep 83 GF]

CSO: 4400/500

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS VOLUNTEER FOR ARMY SERVICE

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 83 p 8

[Article by Amir Rosenblit: "American Citizens Volunteer for IDF"]

[Text] At first glance they appear in every way to be army reserve personnel who have come to the military base from every corner of the country to spend 30 days of service together. A small group of men and women dressed in IDF fatigues. The hair of the men is generally long, and here and there one can see also neat mustaches and beards; but anyone who gets close to this happy group will immediately recognize a number of unique details which negate this impression. With a few isolated exceptions, the members of the group do not speak Hebrew, and the dominant language is English with an American accent. A blue insignia is fixed on the epaulets of their shirts on which two words are written in white letters: "Volunteer Citizen."

This is one of the pioneer groups of volunteers from the United States, virtually all Jewish, who have come to Israel for a period of one month to work in the emergency depot units of the IDF. The proclaimed goals of the project--economizing in defense expenditures by shortening the reserve period for Israeli citizens, strengthening the bond of diaspora Jewry with Israel, and perhaps, creating stimuli, at least among some of them, to immigrate to this country. Zionism for its own sake, if you will.

The first step toward realizing the concept of integration of volunteers from abroad into IDF units was carried out a short time after the outbreak of the Peace for Galilee War. A group of volunteers established a public body under the name of "Shara'el" (an acronym for "Service to Israel"), and a parallel company headed by former chief paratrooper officer, Col (Res.) Aharon Davidi.

In a short time the first volunteers, about 700 of them, had been recruited from the United States for the project. However, after several months of acceleration, a falloff occurred in the project primarily because of financial difficulties relating to the issue of subsidizing air fare for the volunteers. Now that most of the problems have been solved, the project is picking up again even more vigorously and according to estimates some 1,000 volunteers will arrive from the United States by the end of the summer and will be scheduled for 30 days of reserve service with rear line units of the IDF.

This week we joined one of the volunteer groups stationed at one of the IDF bases. We found a heterogeneous group of 24 men and women volunteers of various ages engaged in organizing warehouses and restocking of kitbags and combat echelon transports for operational use, under the watchful eyes of the unit commanders.

Each person has his own story, each volunteer his subjective viewpoint about Israel.

Take, for example, Rosalyn Millman from New York. This is her sixth visit to this country, but this is the first time she has volunteered for back-breaking physical work at a military base, in heat about 30° C--and this despite the fact that she is well over 50 years old. "I'm here to assuage my conscience and to help shoulder the burden that security imposes on the citizens of the State," she says calmly with an expression of "Yiddishe Mama" on her face. "The uniqueness of this recruitment project is that this time I have not come as a tourist 'from the outside,' but rather as someone who is benefiting the State, and this brings me closer to the true problems of the State 'from within'."

Charles Levy (47) is a lecturer in sociology at Harvard University but in military garb he cannot be distinguished at all from the other members of the group. Charles, who is visiting the country for the first time, brought with him all the members of his family: his wife Eleanor, a microbiologist at Boston University, and his oldest daughter. Every one of the family members is posted at a different place on the base and is engaged within a separate work group. He has already learned his first lesson from his visit to Israel: "I was always under the impression that Israelis are aggressive and impolite, but the reverse has become clear to me here. When you work among them day after day, you learn that the Israelis are friendly to the point of absurdity. They offer me cigarettes every minute, although I don't even smoke..." His wife, Eleanor, adds: "The aid to the security effort in Israel affords me a feeling of warmth. This is certainly not the same feeling that an American senses when he volunteers for his own country. In any case, it is clear to me that I would not have volunteered to serve in the American military."

When we ask what the nicest thing that they find in the volunteer project is the answer almost unanimously: "Niva." Niva Elkin is an enchanting soldier 19 years old, the "mother" and the liaison between the group and the unit command. In fluent English (which she learned during a stay of some months in the United States) she briefs them on the schedule for the day, updates them with details of the cultural and social program awaiting them after working hours and looks after all their needs, large and small. As one of the soldiers of the section, and as the one who closely accompanies the group throughout most of the day, Niva's opinion on the significance of the project can be accepted as more or less objective testimony.

"In comparison with army reservists, who come here for the most part in order to fulfill an obligation, to get the chore over with as quickly as possible, and be turned loose," Niva says, "the volunteers are imbued with motivation and great faith in the mission of the project. That is why they

their work ethic and their output is immeasurably greater than those of the reservists. But even beyond that, their very presence, their encounter with an unfamiliar culture and the fact that they arrived here from great distances in order to contribute--engenders high motivation among the soldiers at the base."

At another depot we meet an additional group of volunteers engaged in preparing kitbags and combat echelon transports for operational activity. Diana Kahn (20) captures the eye immediately with her radiant beauty and her enchanting smile that reveals teeth as bright as snow. It is hard to believe that this "beauty" is the daughter of a religiously observant family in New York and graduated from a secondary Yeshiva [Jewish parochial school]. "I very much wanted to learn Judaism," she relates in simple Hebrew, "and what place is there for Judaic studies if not the Land of Israel? A year ago I was studying at the Makhon Meir (part of Merkaz Harav) in Jerusalem and decided that I would come back to this country to enlist. For various reasons it didn't work out, so that now, at least for one month, I feel like a soldier."

We heard quite a strong opinion about the contribution of the project to the volunteer personally from Rick Neuberger, a bearded youth from New York with a wholesome sense of humor who is a theater and movie actor when the opportunity arises. "After the Peace for Galilee War public opinion in the United States became more hostile and reserved with regard to Israel. Israel was portrayed as a "war machine" and it was difficult for me to believe media reports about what was happening in the country. So it was important for me to come here to find out first hand how much reality had been distorted by the media so that after this I would be able to return and become a good-will ambassador for Israel."

One of the more "picturesque" images in the group is Bess Steinbeck, a law student at New York University. We met her at the armory of the unit, handling an American-made M-16 rifle with much expertise and skill. Bess, with a round figure and a military cap askew on her head, explains to us that handling arms runs in the family, since her mother is an avid collector of antique firearms. Bess is prepared to take an oath that when she completes her studies at the university she will immigrate to Israel. Working beside her in the armory are Mike Cohen, nicknamed "balloon" (because of his occupation--a balloon inflator and magician) and Albert Lendener, both from New York. Albert, too, is prepared to make a commitment to immigrate within a few months together with his family. He never stops praising the commanders of the unit for their attitude toward the volunteers and for the support they lend for the success of the project. "Look," he says, "we came here from various places in the United States and never knew one another before. This encounter has created an intimacy among us and has contributed to the creation of bonds of friendship with the Israelis. In effect, we come away from here rewarded no less than the military is rewarded by us."

The deputy commander of the section, Lt Col Avraham, who accompanies us on the tour of the depots, notes that a number of volunteers in this group who have been captivated by the charms of the country, have decided to lengthen their

stay here beyond the time specified beforehand. Amy, a young woman of 25, who defined the encounter with Israel as a "culture shock" decided that she would remain in the country and would spend half a year at the Ulpan learn-Hebrew. Another pair of volunteers in this group, has also decided to lengthen their stay in the country and continue to work within the IDF with the special population ("Educational Rainbow"). This desire to remain here beyond the period previously specified is perhaps the most tangible indication of the success of the 'Service to Israel' project," say Lt Col Avraham.

8090

CSO: 4423/163

NEW REFUGEE CITY TO BE ESTABLISHED

New Refugee City Plan

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 83 p 8

[Article by Yisra'el Tomer, YEDI'OT AHARONET Correspondent]

[Text] "I have learned that the Government is planning to transfer tens of thousands of refugees from their camps in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to a new refugee city about to be established in the Petza'el Region of the Jordan Valley." Thus writes Knesset Member Amnon Lin of the Alignment in a query submitted to the prime minister. Knesset Member Lin wants to know for how many thousands of refugees this refugee city is being planned and whether the government plans to alter the security designation of the Valley Region where 20,000 Arabs and 3,000 Jews are living today. The YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent has learned that a staff of architects has recently been engaged in the planning of the refugee city.

Denial of Refugee City Plan

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by Yosef Tzuri'el and Abie Betelheim]

[Text] There is no plan, and no consideration whatsoever has been given to the proposal to transfer refugees from camps in Judaea and Samaria to the Jordan Valley, it was announced yesterday by the Civil Administration. In response to a question posed by MK Amnon Lin (Alignment) it was explained that government sources have for several months now been examining the possibility of alleviating the overcrowding in the refugee camps in light of the tendency of families living in them to preserve their special status. At this stage a single proposal has been considered--granting permission to families who so desire to build themselves a house on the fringes of the refugee camp or in its vicinity. This is a proposal which has not yet been discussed in the government, and requires the allocation of considerable funds, and cooperation with the UN Welfare and Employment Agency. An account of this proposal has already come to the attention of mukhtarim [village heads] in a number of refugee camps, and with the support of the UN agency they have made known that they oppose it. Minister Mordechai Ben-Porat and Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mikha'el Degel last night said that they know nothing whatever about a "refugee city" in the Valley.

ISLAMIC REVIVAL IN ARAB COMMUNITY ANALYZED

Paris LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE in French Aug 83 p 6

[Article by Amnon Kapeliouk]

[Text] The questionnaire distributed to the Israeli population this summer for the 10-year census asks about the religion of each inhabitant in its paragraph 7, but contains no question about national affiliation. Israel is the only country with a pluralistic, Western-type, parliamentary regime that acts in such a manner. In order to protest against the procedure, some secular Jews simply crossed out paragraph 7. Other citizens of Israel, whether Jews or Arabs, chose to answer "nonpracticing Jew" or "atheist of Jewish origin" or "Palestinian Arab."

The word "Arab" is not to be found in the census questionnaire or the statistical yearbook of Israel, which is very detailed, moreover, and which divides the population into two categories: Jews and non-Jews. The latter category includes the most diverse religious communities: Muslims, Druse, the different Christian denominations, and so on.

Since the nationalist right came to power (May 1977) -- meaning those religious parties making up Begin's majority -- the influence of the Jewish religious circles has grown substantially. The shift toward a kind of modern theocracy accompanied by increasingly clear religious pressures would merit a separate study. At the same time, one can see among the Muslims inhabiting Israel or the occupied territories since 1967 a clear progression in religious consciousness and activity. It is in the occupied territories that this phenomenon is the most apparent because of the repression which, in the absence of any peace prospects in the near future, is constantly intensified. This attachment of the Palestinians to Islam has obviously been encouraged by attacks on Muslim holy places in Hebron by Israeli settlers and in Jerusalem by Jewish fanatics.

Since the absolute ban on any political or social activity is still in effect and since the mosques remain the only meeting place for the adult population, the activity of Islamic religious circles is thereby facilitated. When they deem it necessary, the military authorities do not hesitate to rule out assemblies in the mosques or, less rarely, to use force to disperse the faithful following Friday prayers. Interventions of this type are much more frequent when it is a matter of breaking up demonstrations staged in the lycees or universities in Trans-Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Two actors play an increasingly important role: on the one hand, the Muslim religious "establishment" linked to Jordan, represented by the Supreme Islamic Council headed by Shaykh Sa'd-al-Dinal-'Alamit (who, under a religious cover, often engages in political activity), and, on the other hand, the department of the *waqf* (religious property) headed by Shaykh Hasan Tahbub. These two institutions, and the latter in particular, grant considerable sums for the construction of mosques, religious studies and the establishment of many religious posts. In this way, a great deal of money enters the occupied territories through the pro-Jordan religious establishment while, in order to prevent the forwarding of funds destined for the PLO, the Israeli military administration strictly controls the importation of money from Jordan. The ceiling authorized for any individual is 1,000 Jordanian dinars, or about 23,000 francs. Sums from the Hashemite kingdom thus take on particular importance compared with the meager budget of the Israeli military government for the occupied territories (450 million shekels, or about 100 million francs).

Along with these activities of the Muslim religious establishment, one observes, especially since the Iranian Islamic revolution, the appearance of religious organizations such as the Islamic Center in Gaza or the Jihad (holy war) Movement and the Muslim Hand in Trans-Jordan. These militant groups join two underground groupings already set up before 1967: the Muslim Brotherhood and the Tahrir Party. These various groups are active on two levels: first of all, the appeal to return to religious fundamentalism in daily life; and second, the propaganda against the Israeli occupation and the communist "infidels" and other leftist groups, which represent a major part of the Palestinian nationalist movement organized against the occupation.

From time to time, the Muslim preachers receive slogans for a campaign against "groups alienated from the Muslim religion and which are trying to dominate us." They make the mosques -- especially the court of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem -- available to demonstrators against the Israeli occupier. These Orthodox Muslim circles sometimes clash with nationalists favorably inclined to the PLO. One example among many: In October 1980, the National Orientation Committee, which was created after the signing of the Camp David Accords and which claims affiliation with the PLO (it was dissolved by Israeli military authorities in 1982), called for a demonstration in the Ai-Birah Mosque to protest the harsh conditions in the Nafha prison (in the Negev) and it was the Muslim Brotherhood that put an end to the meeting, using force to disperse the "sympathizers of the heathen left."

In the fight against the PLO and its influence in the occupied territories, the Israeli authorities are not displeased with this opposition between religious people and nationalists, which weakens the resistance. In short-range terms, the Israelis indirectly favor the religious groups, which may become dangerous in the long run. There is no proof that the Israeli authorities stir up the discord between Muslim fanatics and nationalists close to the PLO, but one fact is well known: The authorities refrain from intervening in one type of disorder or riot: when Muslim fanatics attack nationalists and the Palestinian left. The Israeli Army then disappears from the scene. There are two examples among many others: In January 1980, Muslim fundamentalists attacked the offices of the Palestinian Red Cross in Gaza, considered to be

a leftist stronghold (its president, Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, appears to be the major supporter of the PLO in the Gaza Strip). They looted the offices, then set fire to the building without the Israeli Army ever intervening. While in other cases of the slightest disorder, the army is immediately on the scene, using tear gas and firearms, it took an hour and a half to arrive this time! On 4 June 1983, for the anniversary of the 1967 War, Muslims from Gaza entered the grounds of Bir Zayt University, known to be a center of leftist nationalists, headed by Christian Arabs (in the most recent elections held at Bir Zayt University, the list backed by the Fatah and the People's Front obtained 55 percent of the votes, Muslim religious candidates 27 percent and the communists and the Democratic Front 18 percent). The army and the police arrived on the spot immediately, but, rapidly realizing what they were dealing with, hastily withdrew and let the confrontation continue. In contrast, on that same day, the army intervened at Najah University in Nabulus, where a demonstration was being held to mark the anniversary of the war. The university was closed until the end of the year, the students thus being prevented from taking their exams, causing them to waste the entire school year.

Concealing Obvious Satisfaction

The uprising within the PLO obviously created ripples among Palestinians in the occupied territories. According to all information at hand, nearly all of the population supports Yasir 'Arafat, who is considered to be the sole leader of the Palestinians. But while faithful religious circles in Jordan were taking advantage of it to launch a vigorous anti-Syrian campaign -- the president of the Supreme Islamic Council even published a religious order (*fatoua*) authorizing the assassination of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, labeled an "infidel" -- leftist circles, which also condemned the uprising, refrained from criticizing Syria, in which they see "a strategic ally of the Palestinian national movement."

The occupation authorities have drawn a "red line" which religious circles, in their activities, are urged not to cross: They must take no action openly hostile to Israel. Dozens of shaykhs and preachers have been arrested since 1980 for not obeying, then released after questioning.

Unlike the inhabitants of the occupied territories, religious Muslims living within the borders of the state of Israel have long crossed over that red line and suffered the consequences of their action. The Muslim renaissance in Israel (out of some 4 million inhabitants, Israel has 450,000 Muslims and 50,000 Christians; in Trans-Jordan and Gaza, there are 1.25 million Muslims and 70,000 Christians) took off following contacts with Palestinians from the territories occupied since 1967. It enjoyed a new boost with the awakening of the Palestinian national consciousness following the bloody incidents of the "day of the homeland" (March 1976), during which eight demonstrators were killed by the Israeli forces. Finally, the Islamic revolution in Iran also contributed indirectly to the development of the religious current.

Under the influence of these different events, young Muslims, some of whom belonged to leftist parties, have rallied to the religious movement. Then, an underground organization, the Family of the Jihad, was formed and its members

received military training. They carried out some 50 acts of sabotage, mainly directed against Jewish property, burning fields, uprooting trees, and so on. Over 50 of them were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms. Among them was their leader, designated as the "general guide," a title borne by the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Also belonging to the same movement was a nonmilitary organization, the Family of Religion, also banned. Although repression has reduced the activities of these groups, one sees among the Muslims of Israel a constant expansion of religious influence. An undeniable sign of it is given by the construction of many mosques in Nazareth and in dozens of villages. Naturally, the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs gives aid for the maintenance and construction of the mosques, but the initiative mainly comes from the inhabitants. Unlike what is happening in Trans-Jordan and Gaza, the government controls a large part of the religious holdings (*waqf*) in Israel and makes all appointments of the members of the Muslim religious structure. In this field, on the other hand, the Christian communities are autonomous.

In Israel, as in the occupied territories, authorities try not to reveal their satisfaction over the intensification of the Muslim religious influence. Perhaps they will be disenchanted in the long run, but for the time being, the religious factor is a useful counterweight to the influence of the Communist Party which, among the Arab population of Israel (half of whose votes it obtained in the last legislative elections) is the main force of opposition to the policies of the Begin government.

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CSO: 4419/25

BRIEFS

SICK FUND REORGANIZATION FOLLOWING STRIKE--The administration of Kupat Holim [Sick Fund] has recognized that as a result of the physicians' strike there is no alternative other than a reorganization of the fund. The administration appointed a committee of experts on Friday who were made responsible for presenting specific recommendations within a month or two. The decision apparently will be brought up for approval of the National Council, which is to convene today. The chairman of the administration, Prof Hayim Doron, proposed the makeup of the committee to the Administration. Heading the professional committee will be Prof Hayim Nagan, dean of the Department of Health Sciences in the Negev, who is also an expert in medical administration. Members of the committee are: Prof Zvi Bentovitz of Kaplan [Hospital], Prof M. Pollack, Chief of the Family Medicine Group at Tel Aviv University, Dr V. Megel, head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Emeq Hospital Yehudit Steiner, former director of the School for Assistance at the Hebrew University, and a member of the Central Committee, Aliza Shefi, Chief of the Social Security Center in the Histadrut. The authority of the committee as defined by the administration is "the organizational prospects and the organizational, economic and health development of the Sick Fund, internal communications and the administration of the health services of the Sick Fund." The administration further decided on Friday that the committee will be assisted by professional staffs which are in close contact with the administration of the Sick Fund and with senior personnel in the institution. A member of the Central Committee, Nahum Pessah, demanded that the Central Committee investigate and draw conclusions from the physicians' strike regarding the way the Histadrut and the Sick Fund handled this matter. The Central Committee authorized the Secretary General, Y. Meshel, to determine the form of the investigation and its time. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 83 p 2] 8090

CSO: 4423/163

MUSLIM FIGURE DENOUNCES U.S. ROLE IN FIGHTING

LD031221 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 3 Sep 83

["Excessive Interview by Imad Ajami"--KUNA headline]

[Text] Beirut, 3 Sep (KUNA)--The recent Lebanese army offensive against West and South Beirut, in which U.S. marines were instrumental, does nothing to encourage the belief that the government is at all interested in reaching a political settlement with the country's various political groupings, the deputy leader of the Shi'ite "Amal" movement told KUNA.

In an exclusive interview in Beirut, 'Akif Haydar, chairman of Amal's political bureau, said that the government's show of force made its call for "dialogue" doubly hypocritical.

"We were cheated, but we won't be cheated again," he said, referring to the attack in which Lebanese Army units backed by rightist Phalangist gunmen and U.S. marines attached to the Beirut-based multinational force attempted to take over traditional opposition areas of the city.

The Amal official, whose movement's base of support is in the densely-populated south of the capital, which the army has surrounded but failed to enter, warned that any attempt to storm the southern suburbs would be resisted.

"We will fight to defend the suburbs even if it costs us thousands of lives," Haydar vowed, adding that even in West Beirut, where the situation had quietened down following a limited army penetration of the area, militiamen from all opposition groups were ready to take up arms again if the army attacked them.

Haydar stressed, however, that armed resistance has always been, and would remain, a measure of last resort, and that last week's clashes were defensive actions as far as the opposition fighters were concerned.

"We do not want to fight the army, they are the sons of our people," he said, adding that the government was using troops as a means of implementing Phalangist hegemony on the country.

"The regime and everybody else knows that we could have split the army if we had wanted to, and if it is unified now that is only because we don't want it to be divided," Haydar noted.

"One day," he added, "the army may well be the only means of saving the country, but only when the government changes its sectarian policies."

"But there is no way we can accept offers of negotiations made using tanks and shells," he said. "We have received the government's offer of talks to achieve security, but real security can only [be] reached by agreement."

"When we ask for security by agreement, all we mean is that East and West Beirut be treated in the same way, that there is justice and that the definition of security is not manipulated to suit the Phalangists."

Haydar said that government calls for opposition militias to lay down their arms were meaningless so long as it turned a blind eye to continuing armed activities by the Phalangist rightists who control East Beirut. Despite state claims that the army would move in to East Beirut, the army was doing nothing to curb the power of Phalangist gangs who, indeed, fought alongside government troops in their latest offensive.

Haydar added that U.S. marines played a direct part in the attack. "American helicopters were used to fire rockets and take photographs of the city prior to the army's entry, while U.S. Green Berets fought alongside them in the offensive," he said.

"If they (the U.S. contingent of the multinational force) claim they are peace-keepers they should remain that way and not take part in attacks against Lebanese Muslims," the Amal official added.

He warned that if the Lebanese regime did not change direction promptly, there would be a rapid deterioration in the situation, for which the government would have to bear responsibility.

But he added he was not optimistic that the government would change course. The regime, he said, was "looking at the situation with one eye only," and totally ignoring the non-Phalangist viewpoint.

"Unfortunately, the direction of their policy is the same as before, and if anything, more biased and intransigent," he added.

Haydar said that while Amal was not a member of the multi-sect opposition National Salvation Front (NSF) which is led by christian ex-President Sulayman Franjiyah, Sunni Muslim ex-Premier Rashid Karami and Druze leader Walid Junblatt, the two organizations' views were similar.

The main points of agreement were opposition to attempts at imposing Phalangist domination by forced army seizure of Beirut and the Shouf Mountains, and rejection of the U.S.-sponsored agreement between the Lebanese regime and Israel.

The NSF's leaders were patriots, Haydar said, and in many situations, "We are in the same trench facing the same enemy."

CSO: 4400/497

LEBANON

INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE ENVOY TO CAIRO

GF012028 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Aug 83 p 5

[Interview with Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sulh, supervisor of the Lebanese interests office in Cairo, appointed by the Lebanese Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ministry, at the ambassador's residence in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Can you tell us about the status of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Lebanon?

[Answer] Diplomatic relations between Egypt and Lebanon were restored 2 months ago, that is since I was appointed as the general supervisor of the Lebanese interests office in Cairo. But no official announcement was made on the restoration of these relations and there is no accredited ambassador in either countries. I enjoy the status of an ambassador and I am dealt with on this basis, and all official doors are open to me. I am always in contact with President Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian foreign affairs minister, and the other Egyptian state officials.

[Question] Can you tell us about current economic relations between Lebanon and Egypt as well?

[Answer] At the request of His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil and after meeting with President Husni Mubarak, I asked the Egyptian Government to speed-up the implementation of the economic protocol between Lebanon and Egypt. Actually, the Egyptian Government responded to my request and sent the protocol to the concerned economic examiner in Beirut, through the Foreign Ministry. All that is left now is the appointment of the economic delegation by the Lebanese Government to visit Cairo and the official signing of this protocol which affirms the importance of relations between Lebanon and Egypt on various trade, industrial, and agricultural levels, particularly on import and export levels.

CSO: 4400/497

AL-MURABITUN ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION

NC041404 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in English 4 Sep 83

[Text] The Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun issued the following communique:

As a result of the urgent (?complications) which are imposed by the Zionist plan to the Zionist partial withdrawal from the mountain, it is decided a patriotic plan to confront all the probabilities. [sentence as heard]

This patriotic plan is directed by the Socialist Progressive Party [PSP], the patriotic forces, and the inhabitants.

Regarding this situation, the higher political central committee of the Independent Nasirite Movement-al-Murabitun held an urgent meeting where it studied the current [word indistinct] and issued the following communique:

1. The execution of the Zionist partial withdrawal from the mountain and al-Shuf was coordinated by a plan with the Phalangist militias and their allies to deploy in the regions which were under the Zionist occupation in the mountain and al-Shuf.
2. The department of the [word indistinct] affirms that the patriotic forces and the inhabitants understand well the patriotic political plan which is based on the enforcement of political reconciliation before achieving any security reconciliation.
3. The committee puts all the movement's [word indistinct] possibilities under the patriotic political decision. The Independent Nasirite Movement's leadership (?briefed) the PSP on its decision during a visit of the movement's delegation to Mr Walid Junblatt.
4. The committee affirms the importance of positive connections between [Independent Nasirite Movement-al-Murabitun leader] Mr Ibrahim Qulaylat and Mr Nabih Birri, president of the Amal movement, and the leaders of the PSP leadership.

CSO: 4400/497

ELIE SALIM ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO KLIBI ON EVENTS

NC021301 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Telephone dispatch by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace in Beirut--live]

[Text] Yesterday, 1 September, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim sent a message to Arab League secretary general Chedli Klibi, in which he explained Lebanon's stand and conveyed to him the Lebanese Government's request from the Arab League to help Lebanese secure the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from its territory. The following is the text of the message:

My brother, the secretary general: I am writing you today--prompted by the events that Lebanon had experienced and continues to experiences--to ask you to work with us for the sake of implementing the international and Arab resolutions that are in line with the Lebanese decision calling for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. May I mention in particular UN Security Council Resolutions 509 and 520, the 12th Arab summit conference resolution, and the resolution issued by the 7 to 11 March 1983 nonaligned summit conference in New Delhi.

There is no need to list the stages through which Lebanon has passed since the exacerbation of the situation in it. The dangers inherent in this situation threaten not only Lebanon but also the entire Arab area. The gravest stage Lebanon passed through was during the Israeli invasion in June 1982 and the subsequent occupation of a large part of Lebanon.

Undoubtedly, you recall, while following up the Lebanese events during the difficult days, that Lebanon has always desired seeking the support of its Arab brothers, be it on the bilateral level or within the framework of the Arab League, including the summit conferences, to bring about the evacuation of the Israeli forces, in addition to the departure of all of the non-Lebanese forces, so Lebanon can spread its authority on all Lebanese territory and can regain its full sovereignty. This stand was expressed by Lebanon through the Lebanese constitutional establishments as well as in international meetings.

During the summit conference, which was convened in Fes from 6 to 8 September 1982, Lebanon presented a working paper aimed at the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from its territories. Clause 4 of the working paper included a request to the summit to take note of the Lebanese authorities' decision which provided for:

1. Declaring the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.
2. Declaring a complete halt to the Palestinian military action from and in the Lebanese territories as well as ending the armed presence of the Palestinian organizations in Lebanon.
3. Declaring the termination of the Arab Deterrent Forces' task in Lebanon.

At that time, the summit conference issued the following decision:

The conference has taken note of the Lebanese Government's decision to terminate the task of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon. Negotiations will take place between the Lebanese and Syrian governments to work out the arrangements in light of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Mr Salim's letter to the Arab League secretary general adds: Through your following up of the Lebanese endeavors, you are not unaware of what took place between Lebanon and Syria in this context, despite Lebanon's reservations about the summit resolution when it was adopted. The Lebanese demand for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces was clear and frank through the discussions and the contacts that took place with the Syrian officials.

Today, we are facing an Israeli decision to effect a partial withdrawal in the next few days without this decision being linked--as we have been insistently demanding--to a specific timetable that will regulate the complete Israeli withdrawal, the implementation of which Israel is making conditional upon the withdrawal of the Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

You must be aware that Lebanon has often publicly declared its fears that Israel's partial withdrawal will expose Lebanon's unity, and indeed its fate, to danger. However, Lebanon will neither leave any land from which Israel withdraws forlorn, nor can it practically prevent or reject any foreign withdrawal whatever the circumstances. On the contrary, our national interests demand, just as the general Arab interest demands, that we benefit from the withdrawal to liberate the land and to establish national sovereignty over it.

In view of this situation and to enable Lebanon to regain its complete sovereignty, whatever the stands and excuses of the various parties, we sent you this message to emphasize our position on the contents of the working paper which was presented to the Fes conference. In this paper we asked the Syrian Arab Republic to withdraw its army from Lebanon after the termination of the task of the Arab Deterrent Forces; we asked the PLO to halt its military operations in the Lebanese territories and to withdraw all of its armed forces from Lebanon, in addition to the demand for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces which we are persistently pursuing.

In confirmation of our stand, we ask you to distribute this letter to the governments of the Arab League member states so that they may be aware of the matter and of the demand for withdrawal. We hope we will receive from them and from the Arab League the support that is dictated by the ties of fraternity and the Arab League Charter which is based on mutual respect for the independence and sovereignty of every state. Mr Secretary General, please accept my best greetings and most sincere feelings of amity and appreciation.

[signed] Elie Salim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

SA'D HADDAD ADDRESSES LEBANESE ON RECENT EVENTS

JN070716 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 83

[Speech addressed to the Lebanese people by leader of free Lebanon Major Sa'd Haddad on 6 September 1983; place not specified--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother Lebanese, we find no alternative but to address you in these difficult times. Regardless of the circumstances and the change of armies, only Lebanese people will remain on Lebanese soil. The Lebanese citizen will always remain to help his brother Lebanese. You, undoubtedly, listen to the news apprehensively and with taut nerves. Like the Lebanese citizens who love their homeland, we also are following the events apprehensively. What is taking place in al-Shuf and 'Alayh is disastrous and tragic; it pains every Lebanese everywhere because any Lebanese who does not react to the pains suffered by his brothers, whether in al-Shuf, Tripoli or Ba'labakk, is not a Lebanese citizen.

Brothers. We do not deny that the officials have committed many mistakes. These officials had the chance to save Lebanon and spare the Lebanese homeland and people many disasters and tragedies. Unfortunately, the officials did not know the correct way of saving Lebanon. We tried in the past to show them the correct path but to no avail.

Who will benefit from this fighting? The enemies of Lebanon will benefit; the Lebanese people will be the losers. We are certain that the swindlers [Palestinians] who terrorized the Lebanese people for a long time and ruled them for 7 years are back in Bhamdun. They and the Syrians have returned and the question is no longer a question of Lebanese versus Lebanese. The situation is not under the control of the Lebanese people. Even if the Lebanese people want to make peace among themselves, the swindler, who entered Bhamdun and other areas as a fighter, will prevent this reconciliation. The Syrians will prevent such reconciliation. These strangers want the fighting to increase because their interests will be guaranteed.

I ask the Lebanese state to carry out its duties, although belatedly, and I assure all the Lebanese about their fate and future. It must send its army to all parts of Lebanon where there are no alien armies in order to secure protection for all the Lebanese people without exception or discrimination. This army must impose order and fight all those who commit aggression against it, taking into

consideration the fact that it is there to serve the Lebanese homeland and people. All the Lebanese people must feel that this army is their own army and not the army of a certain sect; that it is for all the Lebanese people. The Lebanese people must give this army a chance to prove that it is not prejudiced; that it is an army of patriots, and that it will carry out its promises. We have had enough tragedies and disasters. We must solve our own problems.

If you ask me my opinion, I tell you that I believe that the 1943 formula is an obsolete formula. This formula must be revised. The Lebanese constitution must be corrected and amended. This is a Lebanese demand and not a demand of a certain sect or community. This demand can be met without violence. With open hearts and enlightened minds we can reach this cherished aim. We want a model, modern homeland. We should be proud of having a modern, developed homeland; a homeland that ensures freedom and sanctifies the freedom of persons. I join those who call for change and amendments but I oppose all formulas of violence.

Here I must mention that during the recent events, more than 150,000 Lebanese citizens sought refuge in the south because they know that the south is an oasis of peace. It is my wish as well as yours that this area remained an oasis of peace. Therefore, I ask the inhabitants of this dear region to preserve calm and maintain an atmosphere of love in this region. It is our wish that peace will return to all the Lebanese areas, particularly al-Shuf and 'Alayh, as it has returned to free Lebanon.

I ask all the people in Free Lebanon to be aware of their responsibilities and work to strengthen the ties of brotherhood among themselves because we do not want the south to be plunged in bloodshed as in the past. We want this south, this Free Lebanon, a model for Lebanese coexistence. We do not want this picture of Lebanese coexistence to be tarnished. The events in other areas should be a lesson for us so we may work more determinedly to avoid incidents in Free Lebanon. We should work together to realize calm and peace so this area may remain a haven for those who seek peace and security. I hope that we will cooperate to realize this aim.

It must be made clear that we will never allow any incidents to occur here-- incidents that are planned outside Free Lebanon. At the same time, we warn the Syrians and those who are under their command that we will not allow them to reoccupy Lebanon. We demand that his excellency the president of the republic, President Amin al-Jumayyil, send back his UN representative to submit a complaint against Syria, the occupier.

I do not know of the promises of Mr McFarlane. But in any case, the world must know that Lebanon is protesting against the Syrian occupation, that Lebanon rejects the Syrian occupation, and that the Lebanese people and government demand Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. May you live long. May Free Lebanon live as sovereign and independent state.

CSO: 4400/500

LEBANON

MUFTI OF LEBANON APPEALS TO END FIGHTING

NC051515 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Sep 83

[Appeal by the mufti of Lebanon, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, to the Lebanese to stop fighting; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] Oh Lebanese: The grinding war taking place in the mountain has reached a degree of violence which could place all Lebanon on the brink of the horrible abyss and total collapse. It could also lead to the loss of the citizen and the homeland.

At this historical moment, Lebanon--cultured and human Lebanon--appeals to all Lebanese, foremost the rulers and men of peace and reason, to tackle the situation quickly by resorting to logic, wisdom, and sincere and constructive dialogue, which would lead to a political solution and guarantee equality and justice among all the sons of the homeland in order that no faction or community may oppress another faction or community, and which would turn legitimacy into the only authority ruling the land and people.

The possibility of saving Lebanon has not yet fallen from the hands of the Lebanese. If the Lebanese do not act to save themselves, they would absolutely find nobody to save them because the will of unity, life and peace cannot be provided for any society from outside this society. This will cannot be realized if it does not stem from the people's own entity.

Oh Lebanese: This has been going on for a long time. It has led to no results in the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese. On the contrary, it has led to more destruction and ruination and more victims and martyrs. This makes it clear to every reasonable person that the course of fighting, which is now raging in the mountain and elsewhere, is the course of collective suicide, something which every reasonable person rejects and which is forbidden by all the divine religions.

Oh Lebanese: It has become clear to all, and even to all states in the world, that clear political reasons are behind the war in the mountain and the wars which preceded it. Therefore, any outlook to the tragic war on the basis that it is a blind war is a shortsighted glance. A real outlook should deal with the

reasons, and not with the outward signs, through a quiet and sober dialogue. Therefore, the insistence on the national conference, which we called to be convoked within a specific political framework during the last 'Id al-Fitr sermon, remains the only way out for emerging from this tragic crisis, which we have been suffering for 8 years. Through its dealing with the mountain's problem, this conference remains the appropriate approach to all our Lebanese problems.

Oh Lebanese: The initiatives which the United States, France and other states are taking will be of no avail. Even the initiatives which the Arab states are taking to hold a conciliation conference will be of no avail if one of the Lebanese sides does not want this conciliation. We believe that there is no Lebanese who does not prefer the language of reason to the language of killing and who is not keen on maintaining the will of survival as opposed to extinction.

Oh Lebanese: The will of survival, with which God has honored man, behooves us to immediately do the following:

1. To stop the fighting immediately and unconditionally.
2. To freeze the military movements by all sides.
3. To continue to call for the national conference, which the sincere sides have sought and are seeking, and to work for its success to guarantee the realization of a useful dialogue.

The danger surrounding Lebanon and the Lebanese is an imminent evil. The test is very difficult. However, the greater our awareness of the human, democratic and ethical values, the greater will be our ability to build the homeland and the citizen and the nearer we will be to the culture of the age and man's values.

CSO: 4400/500

LEBANON

MUFTI KHALID ADDRESSES APPEAL TO ARAB LEADERS

NC061518 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Sep 83

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, today addressed the following open appeal to Arab kings, presidents, and amirs:

Your majesties, excellencies, kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab states: The seriously deteriorating situation in Lebanon can no longer be tolerated. The bitter fighting that claimed the lives of warring parties in this crushing civil war can no longer allow any delay in the current efforts to end the bloodbath. Massacres are being fiercely committed without discrimination between defenseless and armed people, children and women, men of letters and religion, and ordinary members of the public. We hope that the horrible massacre in Kafr Matta--in which about 40 elderly men, women, and dignitaries were killed, including a judge of the Druze sect, Shaykh Mas'ud al-Gharib--was the last of these massacres.

Massacres such as the one that took place yesterday and the massacre in Bmaryam township call on all consciences to be moved. Those in power must intervene by all means to stop this feverish bloody madness in which the blood of peaceful citizens is being oppressively and aggressively shed.

In the name of Islam and of the sublime religious principles, we address this open appeal to you, after the means of communications were disrupted and danger surrounded Lebanon and its people, to charge you before God with the responsibility of rescuing a people who have supported every Arab in the darkest circumstances. We also charge you with the responsibility of saving a homeland that has exerted every possible efforts for the sake of all Arab causes, civilization, and human values.

We urge you all, particularly the influential Arab kings and presidents, led by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak, and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal to take the initiative to put an end to this bloody tragedy in Lebanon, to help with all capabilities to deliver the Lebanese from their painful ordeal, and to contribute toward the establishment of justice and equality among the Lebanese, which will spare Lebanon and its people in the future the tragedies and pains they are exposed to today.

CSO: 4400/500

SA'IB SALAM STATEMENT AT 3 SEPTEMBER PRESS CONFERENCE

NC031652 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 83

[Statement by former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at a press conference in Beirut on 3 September--recorded]

[Excerpts] I welcome you and thank you for attending. I wish to convey special thanks to friend Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, the doyen of the press association.

It is the right of heroic and steadfast Beirut to raise its pure and clear voice to express the feelings of its sons, and their firm will and noble national thinking. Great and serious events have taken place. The sons of this steadfast country have proved that they are eager to preserve their dignity, that they are the guarantors of their sanctities, and that they are aware of the need to safeguard their life and property.

Our word will remain responsible and sincere and our objective will remain the protection of this homeland and its sons. Everyone who seeks to divide the Muslims in Beirut and elsewhere is wrong. The Muslims are a united bloc and there are no differences among the Shi'ite, Sunnite and Druze. They all adhere to their [word indistinct], Lebanon, and do not accept a substitute for it as an Arab, independent and free country. The overwhelming majority of [words indistinct] nothing more than understanding, fraternity and cooperation within the framework of a democratic state established on the basis of justice and equality with their brother christians to safeguard Lebanon. I firmly believe that this is the desire of the overwhelming majority of our christian brothers.

The sons of Beirut and all the Lebanese citizens from the suburb to the mountain, from the north to the south and from the coast to al-Biqa' have had enough fighting, bloodshed, killing and destruction. In the welter of their present sufferings, they cannot forget about the suffering of their brothers in the south and al-Biqa'; they denounce and condemn the savage crimes which have been committed and are being committed in Tripoli and the savage crime which was committed in Bmaryam. This crime is a reminder of the ill-omened Black Saturday. All these crimes have regrettably become a stigma of shame in the history of Lebanon.

We have maintained since the beginning the slogan that violence does not solve any problems in Lebanon. The destructive events over the years and until recently proved, after the high price and the enormous losses which Lebanon sustained, that violence has not resolved any issue or problem in Lebanon but rather has complicated them. Lebanon, and particularly Beirut, has been an open arena for conflicts both far and near and overt and covert international conflicts. Lebanon came between a burning crossfire--that of communism and its destructive branches which seek hegemony and that of spiteful fascism and its branches which seek domination and control and the realization of the policy of the conqueror and vanquished. But we in Beirut and the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese reject this. We will continue to have faith in our God and our country advocating love and understanding, particularly between the Muslims and Christians, the two pillars of this dear homeland.

We support the legitimacy which is based on justice and equality. There is no way to save Lebanon other than through this just and liberated legitimacy. We support the legitimacy's security arm, the defender of the homeland's border. We are with the army when it deals with all the Lebanese with equality and without discrimination. On this occasion, I cannot but convey the greetings of one citizen to another--to the souls of the army casualties who fell in all areas without discrimination as to their religion or creed. They gave no opportunity to those who hoped for the breaking up of the army and consequently the breaking up of Lebanon. Following this, we must learn lessons from what has happened in Beirut in recent days. The option was between insecurity, border (?demarcation) and the violation of dignity and sanctities and between an army which severely restrained the evil of meddlers. The citizens suffered losses of life and property. The sons of Beirut paid a high price. It is, therefore, their right to raise their voice about everything which concerns them and disturbs their lives and to demand everything of the government and the army. [Phrase indistinct] entry in the eastern area of Beirut is a good sign, even if [word indistinct] late. The persistent demand is that this should not be a symbolic or sham entry as happened in the past. Everybody must be fully convinced that the imposition of the army's authority in eastern Beirut and beyond is completely effective and that there will be no more illegal practices.

The army's deployment in all the areas under the state's control must not be confined to mobile blockades and patrols. All the military barracks which do not belong to the army and internal security forces must be closed. All the roads used by forces and formations other than the army and internal security forces must be closed. Furthermore, it is necessary to reopen all crossing points between the two areas of Beirut by removing all obstacles and barriers. The legitimacy of the army and government is the only established legitimacy. If this had happened when greater Beirut was proclaimed, what happened yesterday wouldn't have happened. We stress this because I am confident that the overwhelming majority of our Christian brothers agree with me. This would serve the interests of the sons of Beirut and all Lebanon. It would also eliminate any discrimination in the treatment of citizens.

The army command is required to firmly investigate every complaint about what has happened and adopt strict measures. The army would thus prove its credibility and the concerned people in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon would feel reassured. The army command is further required to act immediately toward the release of all those detained without legal justification. The government is required to adopt all necessary measures for helping the afflicted and compensating for damage. It is also required to also act toward the release of all those detained by any illegal organizations.

We and all the sons of Beirut, despite all that they have sustained, feel that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese are with us and that they continue to support the salvation process. We have given and continue to give our support to the legitimacy to realize the dear salvation objective. It is the right of the Lebanese to demand the correction of the course of this process to avoid any flaws and mistakes.

Much distortion has obstructed the salvation process so far. The legitimacy must disclose this distortion without any fear or delay. This is not the place to elaborate on this. However, there are some practices by some of the state's organs, foremost the deuxième, public security, military prosecution and official information, which are no longer tolerable. All of them are responsible for the great damage done to the government and citizens. It is difficult to describe this damage; it must not continue. They were not mere temporary gaps, as they were described, which could be remedied through weak methods. They require the adoption of decisive measures without any delay which would deal with these gaps and with all those responsible for them.

CSO: 4400/500

NABIH BIRRI INTERVIEW WITH RADIO MONTE CARLO

JN031454 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Sep 83

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by an unidentified Radio Monte Carlo reporter on 3 September--place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion on the current situation in West Beirut and the southern suburb after the army had entered these areas?

[Nabih Birri] First of all, the Lebanese Army was not prevented from entering West Beirut or the southern suburb. In fact, these two areas were among the first areas that obeyed and welcomed their army, the army of the country. However, what happened is that East Beirut did not yield to this army. During the past 11 months there has been a defect in the Lebanese Army's dealing with the people in West Beirut and the southern suburb to the exclusion of people in East Beirut. This defect was associated with a certain hegemony under which the siege was tightened on these two areas. This has led to a popular uprising. It is untrue that the security and army forces were attacked in West Beirut and the southern suburb.

I have said in a previous statement that the army could have entered and could have been welcomed with flowers and perfume, but what happened is that the army decided to enter with 12,000 soldiers and this was followed by the disasters against the army, people, buildings, and innocent people. Nevertheless, we are still in the same popular battle, that is, we demand that this army should be for all and above all. We are not an alternative to this army. We absolutely have no intention of replacing any Lebanese soldier. As I have said, repeated, and continue to repeat: We want this soldier and this army for all and not for one side against another. We do not want it to be used as a tool in one hand against the other.

The situation in the suburb and in Beirut is still as it was. The same demand is still proposed. Yesterday we heard that the army had entered East Beirut. Today we ask about the destiny of the illegitimate barracks in East Beirut. If the army applies the same law to all, there will be no problem. Otherwise, the problem will persist and remain unsolved.

[Reporter] Nabih, several statements and stands were attributed to you, particularly, concerning an agreement on the army's entry of Beirut on the second of the clashes. What is the truth about the agreement reached and has the army violated this agreement?

[Birri] It is a long story that can be summed up in the following: An agreement was reached through [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and with the knowledge of His Eminence Mufti Hasan Khalid that the army should enter according to mutual consent. What does mutual consent mean? It does not mean, as some are trying to say, the army's subjugation to the authority of some armed elements. On the contrary, West Beirut and the southern suburb were supposed to be treated on equal footing with East Beirut. The same law should have been applied. An agreement was reached on this basis. [Former] Prime Minister al-Huss met with his excellency the president of the republic and the prime minister. They promised him to issue a statement to this effect in the Lebanese radio's 2030 newscast by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, expressing this mutual consent. However, at 2030 we were surprised to hear the statement issued by another person who is currently not an official in the Lebanese Government. We considered this a violation of a pledge. We were not deceived by this statement. Nevertheless, we decided that at least we must adhere to our agreement. Therefore, we announced that we are not a power to replace the army and asked all the armed elements to withdraw to their main positions on conditions that the state abides by its commitments on accord through mutual consent. What happened is that the news media ignored this condition and depicted Nabih Birri and the Amal Movement as agreeing to the army's entry without reaching mutual consent. This caused a political problem. However, the actual situation did not change because the Amal Movement's bases and Mujahidin were aware of the true state of affairs and defended the dignity and pride of the Muslims and the nationalists in West Beirut.

[Reporter] As you have pointed out, Beirut reports say that the army was actually redeployed in East Beirut in accordance with a plan agreed on yesterday by President al-Jumayyil, the prime minister, and the army commander; what are your comments on this, and what is the essence of this plan?

[Birri] It is one of our basic demands and we hope that it will be serious. If it will be a serious one, then we ask the following question: What will happen to the barracks of the Lebanese forces in East Beirut? Many things will depend on this question and its answer. If the illegitimate forces withdraw from the barracks, then we will be ready to receive the Lebanese army in the southern suburb, because the Lebanese army has not redeployed its forces in the southern suburb yet as they say and claim. The situation is still as it is. We are calling for equality even in unjust matters and we seek justice for all citizens.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the entry of the army into the mountain area, after the Israeli partial withdrawal, without conditions or national accord?

[Birri] Out of our concern for the army and Lebanon's interests, our principled stand is that the Lebanese Army must enter the mountain after realizing the following two conditions: First, a political accord to secure a scheduled withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Lebanese territories. At any rate, the mountain issue is not that of two communities, it concerns all Lebanese. In fact, it is completely linked with the liberation issue in Lebanon, the people's rights, and the issue of political decisionmaking. The decisionmaking and the

Lebanese territory are the possession of everyone. Therefore, the army must not make one step toward the mountain before reaching a political accord accompanied with a plan to schedule the Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories, or otherwise the army will make us fall into the Israeli trap this time and this will enable the Israelis to hunt the south and keep it forever. [second condition not given]

[Reporter] What is your opinion on President Amin al-Jumayyil's call for a national accord without preconditions?

[Birri] This is the Amal Movement's demand as you know. We have worked hard to achieve this demand, but regrettably, the president did not call for a national accord except after what he has done in West Beirut. Frankly, we now feel that we will negotiate with one who is positioned inside his tank, and you know it is very difficult for one who is positioned inside a tank to hear an outside sound. Therefore, we hope that practical security measures will be taken to ease tension and settle differences. After this, the meeting of the Lebanese will be the one to which we remain adhered.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the conditions that were made today by former President Sulayman Frankiyah in the name of the National Salvation Front [NSF] to begin dialogue with President Amin al-Jumayyil, the first of these conditions being the cancellation of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel?

[Birri] These are not new conditions. There is no contradiction between the Amal Movement stand and that of the NSF on this, because the first priority which we must always take into consideration is the liberation of southern Lebanon and the liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. Only after this, will we discuss other affairs in detail and in general.

[Reporter] Do you want to add anything to the questions that we have asked?

[Birri] First, I hope that Radio Monte Carlo will not say the Shi'ite Amal Movement, because the Amal Movement is a national Lebanese movement for all the Lebanese. Second, one should not judge things according to a report by a certain correspondent to the exclusion of other correspondents.

CSO: 4400/497

LEBANON

SHAM'UN FOR ARMY MOUNTAIN DEPLOYMENT BEFORE DIALOGUE

NC022106 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Excerpt] The call that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil made to the political leaderships to begin a dialogue today took its practical course. At 1800 [1600 GMT] today, former President Camille Sham'un received the director general of the Republican Palace, Dr Joseph Juraysati, who handed the former president a letter from the president of the republic, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The letter pertains to the president's call for convening a conference for a dialogue in the Republican Palace.

After the 30-minute visit, Juraysati did not make any statement. Meanwhile, President Camille Sham'un said: It is my opinion that any dialogue should take place only after the Lebanese Army enters the mountain area and after the process of imposing security on this area ends well. If, God forbid, the process of the army's entry in the mountain area is unsuccessful, then no dialogue will be useful. However, if this process succeeds--and this is what I hope for--then I believe that the dialogue will be fruitful. In other words, success obviates the need for any dialogue.

Sham'un added: I am counting on the understanding of all my brothers on the mountain, regardless of their sects, that they should not only be contented with refraining from resisting the army, but that they should facilitate its work. The reason is that the fate of peace in the areas of al-Shuf and 'Alayh, and the fate of the evolution of the situation toward calm and economic prosperity--that will definitely make it possible to end the chaotic situation that prevails in these two areas--depend on the success of the army's task.

CSO: 4400/500

ARSLAN'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS LEGITIMACY

NC031328 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Sep 83

[Text] Amir Majid Arslan's Consultative Committee met in the presence of Amirah Khawla and Amir Faysal Arslan and then issued a statement that said:

The government's initiative in calling upon a number of personalities to participate in an open dialogue and in making national decisions for the liberation of the land and for the future of the homeland is one of the sound democratic methods that could pave the way for the achievement of a comprehensive national solution if it is coupled with preparatory and practical measures to eliminate the obstacles that might prevent this initiative from succeeding. It is natural that we should welcome this initiative and contribute to its success because it is a consecration of Amir Majid Arslan's firm policy throughout his political life, and because it stems from our firm conviction that the only way to achieve accord among the Lebanese families is through direct dialogue among themselves and through their participation in making the national decisions that are of a constructive and fateful character, and because the rifle has not and will not be able to impose solutions and decide issues in favor of any party that carried the rifle, but rather has led to the usurpation of the land, insecurity, and many ugly massacres that have been perpetrated by hired hands or evil souls irrespective of their affiliation. The last of these massacres was the Bmaryam massacre, which we denounce and demand that its perpetrators be found.

Amir Majid Arslan, who refused throughout the years of the incidents to resort to arms, and insisted on adhering to the legitimacy and its institutions, will not accept, nor will his representatives or those whom he represents accept, an alternative for legitimacy--a legitimacy that safeguards the interests of the people; that embodies their hopes; that does not discriminate between persons, factions, or areas; and that really achieves what the president has persistently declared.

The statement said: Reliance on the army is the correct course. There is no alternative to the army, not even any other partisan military force. The disregarding of the establishment of the militias in the past years led to weakening the army and was one of the reasons that disrupted the army in 1976. The militias are the cause of complaint, not the army. We do not see the wisdom behind the continuation of the militias now that the army has become capable of controlling security in the country.

The statement added: We appeal to the government to quickly made a decision to dissolve all the militias and close all the armed offices and the unofficial radios. By doing so, we will have removed doubt from the hearts and turned their dispair into hope. The citizens will then rush to respond to the call for amity and for rallying under the banner of new Lebanon--the Lebanon of love, the Lebanon of the one family. We will also have entered through the wide, sound, and natural door to national conciliation and national accord. The completion of the army's deployment in all the areas of greater Beirut and its real control of the situation in these areas could be the test and the firm step toward success.

CSO: 4400/497

LEBANON

BRIEFS

REGIME CRITICIZED--Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri yesterday said that the Lebanese regime has entered the [Lebanese national] accord aboard a tank, and therefore, we will not enter it on foot. He added that a big crime was committed against Lebanon which should not pass without punishment. He asked for the initiation of a serious judicial and parliamentary investigation in which sufficient evidence will be provided to disclose what has taken place in Beirut's southern suburb. Birri affirmed that regardless of any cost, security will not be imposed once again on the southern suburb and West Beirut by force. He disclosed that all reports made by the official radio, the Voice of Lebanon, and Monte Carlo Radio correspondent are false. He reiterated that the reason for the fabrication of such reports is to cover up the massacres that were perpetrated by the regime's army in the southern suburb and West Beirut on the one hand, and to mislead the Lebanese and Arab public opinion by showing that the Amal Movement has changed its present nationalist stand on the other. [Text] [JN022115 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 83]

PROGRESSIVE PARTIES' STATEMENT--Lebanon--The progressive parties in northern Lebanon have asserted that the regime's adoption of the military option has put out the last glimmer of hope for solving the Lebanese crisis and has pushed the country toward a new civil war. In a statement issued today after a meeting which was held yesterday at Rashid Karami's house in Tripoli, these parties considered the Lebanese regime's claims on reconciliation efforts as a cover to complete the storming of southern Beirut and prepare for launching war against the mountain. The progressive parties denounced the war in Beirut and its suburbs as well as the massacres against the people, and declared their support for the people of Beirut, the suburbs, and the mountain. They also denounced the U.S. intervention and participation in the war against the Lebanese. Concluding the statement, the parties expressed their categorical rejection of the Lebanese authority's decisions that restrict liberties--especially the restrictions on the press, Friday sermons, and the activities of the nationalist, progressive, and Muslim parties. [Text] [JN051954 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Sep 83]

U.S. ROLE--Reggio Emilia, 6 Sep-- Lebanese Communist official Albert Farhat denounced "American military attempts to alter the role of the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon" in a speech before the Italian Communist Party festival here Monday. Farhat said that "if the American commitment increases further, the attitude of the Lebanese Communist Party towards the multinational force as a whole would change." Farhat spoke of "a design under way directed at dividing Lebanon, chopping it up into many protectorates of foreign powers to suppress Arabs' demands for changes and freedom, which together with religious motives, are at the origin of the crisis." Speaking of the Italian contingent in the peacekeeping force, Farhat said that "it played a positive function and there was full solidarity for the sacrifices and losses it suffered in its peace mission to defend civilians." [Text] [AU060835 Rome ANSA in English 0825 GMT 6 Sep 83]

CSO: 4400/497

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY--The Sultinate has achieved, self-sufficiency in several agricultural products, including tomatoes, onions, aubergines, cauliflowers and cabbages. And the country, said the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Abdul Hafiz Salem Rajab, was trying to realise self-reliance in other main winter, summer, horticultural and field crops. Mr Rajab added that the Ministry was also planning to step up the output of bananas and frankincense with a view to exporting the surplus. Production of lemons already exceeded local demand and the surplus was being exported to Gulf Co-operation Council countries and other countries. Clover was also grown extensively in the country, and production also exceeded domestic needs. The Minister said that his Ministry was encouraging farmers to produce new varieties of wheat that gave a higher yield so as to attain self-sufficiency in the crop. It was with this objective that the Public Authority for Agricultural Produce was set up, he added. Its function was to coordinate production, marketing, import and export of agricultural products. At present there were only two marketing centres in the country. One was in the Capital Area and the other in the Southern Region. Both, the Minister pointed out, had gained much acclaim for selling agricultural products at prices lower than the prevailing market rates. "More similar centres are to be established in the country", he said. The Ministry has also drawn up a strategy to increase the incomes of the farmers and to subsidise agricultural production. [Text] [Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 15 Aug 83 p 2]

EXPORTS UP--Oman's exports to the member-countries of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council have registered substantial increases, during the period 1979-1982, according to the bimonthly publication of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry "Al Ghofra". Statistics show that the Sultanate's exports rose from R025 million in 1979 to R084 million in 1982. Exports to Saudi Arabia in 1982 amounted to R031 million. The figure in 1979 was R03.2 million. A large portion of the exports were re-export of foreign goods with motor vehicles constituting 80 per cent and foodstuffs including fish, dates and lemons forming 10 per cent of the total. Imports from AGCC countries into Oman amounted to R0200 million, an increase of 160 per cent over 1979 figures, with UAE and Bahrain as main suppliers. The share of imports of petroleum products began at the Oman Oil Refinery - from 8.4. per cent in 1979 to 54.7 per cent on the total imports. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 18 Aug 83 p 2]

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE APOINTS COURT

NC300712 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Following its recent meetings in Tunis in the presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and Palestine Revolution Forces commander in chief, the Fatah Central Committee issued the following two decisions:

1. At its meeting on 26 August 1983, the Central Committee decided to form the Financial Supervision Committee as follows:

Chairman--Abu Mazim [Mahmud 'Abbas]

Vice chairman--Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun]

Members--Anis al-Khatib, Al-Hajj Talal, Colonel Nasri Yusuf, Abu Usamah Sa'id [Zuhayr 'Izz al-Din], Abu Tawfiq [Thasan Tawfiq Salih], and 'Abd al-Ilah al-Qasim.

The committee will assume its duties immediately.

2. At its meeting on 27 August 1983, the committee decided to form the revolution's Security Court as follows:

President--Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun]

Members--Colonel Muhammad Jihad, Lieutenant Colonel Mundhir Abu Ghazalah, 'Abbas Zaki, and Nahid al-Rayyis.

Cases pertaining to the Lebanese war and conduct cases will be referred to this court.

It is a revolution until victory.

CSO: 4400/496

QATAR

BRIEFS

GAS PRODUCTION--Doha, 4 Sep (WAKH)--Qatar's maximum daily production of liquified natural gas is 1,700 tons of propane, 1,240 tons of biotane, and 1,075 tons of natural gas, said Shaykh 'abd ar-Rahman ibn Jabr al Thani, deputy director of the technical center for national industrial development, in an interview published in today's issue of the Doha-based newspaper AL-RAYAH. [Excerpt] [GF041425 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 Sep 83 GF]

CSO: 4400/499

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-YAWM CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN LEBANON

LD270853 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0648 GMT 27 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Aug (SPA)--AL-YAWM stressed that U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East is still very shaky because of severe contradictions and negative treatment by the White House with regard to events in the region and the fact that President Reagan's administration works for Zionist interests and not according to the interests of just peace as White House officials claim.

The paper said Reagan yesterday repeated his suggestions concerning peace in the region and called for their adoption in spite of the effect of the 75 F-16 aircrafts with which America is supporting the enemy. It added that MacFarlane's mission will not achieve anything except a call for an increase in the multinational forces in Lebanon, even though the original forces did not help in achieving any progress toward halting the danger to which Lebanon is exposed.

All this means the U.S. Administration is now contributing, with all its influence, to delay in the withdrawal of Zionist forces from Lebanon in order to fulfill a certain strategy in favor of the Americans and the Zionists and not to achieve peace in the region. AL-YAWM called on the U.S. Administration to exert tangible pressure on the enemy before Reagan renews the call for his project, instead of sending envoys and raising slogans without any results.

CSO: 4400/496

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-RIYADH CRITICIZES U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY

PM081328 Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 29 Jul 83 p 19

[Dr Muhammad Jabir al-Ansari article: "What Is the Meaning of U.S. Nuclear Aid to India and Israeli Threat to Pakistan's Reactor?"

[Excerpts] When former U.S. National Security Adviser Brzezinski is pleased to announce that in the coming years Israel will increasingly become the target of a Third World nuclear bomb what exactly does he mean to say?

First, he knows very well that Israel has been in possession of a nuclear weapon since the sixties and that it contemplated using it during the October war had it not been for the fact that the development of military operations did not give it sufficient justification before its major allies to commit such an act, and that its allies gave it more than enough conventional weapons to turn the tide in its favor in the end, thus saving the Israeli nuclear weapon for a suitable time.

Therefore, it is the Third World that is likely to be the target of an Israeli nuclear strike and not vice versa.

What Third World did Mr Brzezinski mean in his remarks?

Is it India, for example, to which President Reagan's administration decided to give sophisticated equipment in order to complete building its nuclear reactor, which actually exploded a nuclear device several years ago, and which has refused and is still refusing to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty?

If there was one chance in a million that the Indian nuclear weapon will threaten Israel, President Reagan's administration would not have dared to give nuclear aid to India, the Jewish lobby in the United States would have been up in arms against him, and he would not have dared even to dream of being returned for a second term of office. This is a fact that nobody can dispute.

Therefore, if Brzezinski were to call a spade a spade and truly speak his mind, he would have said that the Third World in question is only the Arab and Islamic world and nobody else.

I believe that the former U.S. national security adviser knows geography well and is well acquainted with history. The Third World he is accusing of posing a nuclear threat to Israel is not India, Zaire, or Mozambique. It is the only country whose nuclear reactor is threatened by Israel, namely Pakistan.

When I heard that President Reagan's administration had decided to give nuclear aid to India--this, incidentally, is a clever blow to the Indian-Soviet alliance--which, as is known, is a pillar of the "poor" Third World countries, and that this chivalrous U.S. aid is not wheat to feed the hungry Indians but rather nuclear technology to deter the Islamic world on the one hand and on the other to brandish the Indian nuclear power at China, if it goes on mending its relations with the Russians, I came to the conclusion that the Third World to which Brzezinski was referring could only be the Arab and Islamic world. Otherwise the United States, by giving nuclear technology to Mrs Indira Gandhi's government--Gandhi undoubtedly being one of the Third World's bright stars--would be paving the way to enabling the Third World to make a nuclear strike against Israel.

Since this possibility is absolutely unlikely, considering that the big fish of the Jewish lobby in the United States would swallow up everybody in the White House if there was the slightest possibility, then we are left only with the option of correcting Brzezinski's geography and telling him: Thank you for good intentions toward us, for we are the ones meant by the nuclear accusation. Despite the conditions in which we exist and of which you are well aware, we are the ones who are frightening the others, including the strong ones who fear us despite our weakness.

This leads us directly to the heart of the matter and the crux of the problem.

The fact is that the West has no objection to India and Brazil becoming nuclear powers and to China possessing nuclear bombs. Yes, even communist China was allowed by the West to develop its nuclear weapons without interference or sabotage. Shortly it will allow Japan to develop its nuclear weapon.

But when the matter concerns the Arab and Islamic world, instinctive fear and indeed instinctive hatred, which has remained dormant in the Western soul since the battle of Poitiers in the south of France 14 centuries ago, is aroused.

Otherwise, how can we explain what is happening before our eyes despite the fact that we show good faith in the others and try to smile at the Arab-European dialogue meetings in order to prove our good intentions which nobody in those Western countries seem to share or reciprocate?

Yes, how can we explain what we see with our own eyes? The U.S. secretary of state personally goes to New Delhi to announce offering nuclear technology to Hindu India, an official ally of the Soviet Union under a treaty between the two countries and perhaps the only Asian state that remained silent over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and which sometimes defended it and justified it with soft-spoken words.

Yet despite all this India receives a nuclear gift from the United States.

As for Pakistan, despite its being a Western ally and despite its stand against the Soviet Union since its establishment, it has been denied any military or sophisticated technical aid. Throughout the time he was in office as secretary of state, Henry Kissinger incessantly threatened successive Pakistani Governments with dire consequences if they continued with their nuclear program. The U.S. nuclear ban on Pakistan still exists despite the fact that today it is the principal confrontation state facing the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, whose occupation of the country the West claims to oppose.

Is it possible that Secretary of State Shultz went to the wrong place and confused his geography just as Brzezinski was confusing in his implied talk about the Third World?

Logically, the United States should give nuclear aid to Pakistan, the ally that is standing against Soviet influence, and not to India which is allied with the Soviet Union.

But Mr Shultz, speaking from the wrong place, makes an announcement in New Delhi, and not in Islamabad, offering U.S. nuclear technology to India. Meanwhile, Israel, number one ally of the United States, pledges to strike at the Pakistani nuclear reactor. Does this need any further explanation?

It appears that the only and the deliberate reason for this situation is the fact that the name of the capital being denied rightful aid is "Islam"-Abad. Something with such a name does not please Mr Shultz, the Jews, or the Americans even if it may be facing the Soviet might and involved in Western alliances, and has linked its fate to the West.

In view of all this we cannot but come to the conclusion that it is the Arab and Islamic world alone that is banned from joining the nuclear club and banned from possessing any civilized technological power of significance in today's world.

Otherwise, what is the difference between Pakistan and India?

What is the difference between Iraq and Brazil?

It is evident from Brzezinski's statement about the Third World nuclear threat to Israel and from Shultz' announcement in New Delhi that U.S. geography has two definitions for the term "Third World": The Third World to be pleased with and the Third World to be angry with.

The Third World to be angry with could only be the Arab and Islamic world.

Since the United States has given nuclear aid to India then we have no doubt about the aid it will give to Israel in the nuclear field in order to protect it from the "Third World" to which Brzezinski referred, and about the backing it will give it in order to strike at the Pakistani nuclear reactor. The

United States and Israel fully realize that this weak or weakened Islamic nation will sooner or later rise. Their response to its rising then will be a nuclear threat for which they are planning and preparing now.

Those who had no scruples about massacring the innocent people in Beirut, Sabra, and Shatila with all kinds of weapons will not hesitate to kill with nuclear weapons.

These are the facts about the future challenge. What are we doing about it? This is a recurring question that needs someone to turn it into action.

CSO: 4400/496

SYRIAN MEDIA COMMENT ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

AL-BA'TH Editorial

JN020950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Massacre," today's AL-BA'TH editorial says: Western Beirut and its southern suburb are again paying the tax of patriotism, struggle, and adherence to Arab, independent, and unified Lebanon. Western Beirut first paid the tax upon resisting the racist Zionist invasion and upon confronting the invading forces. The barbarism of the killers in the Sabra and Shatila massacres did not manage to shake or weaken the nationalist spirit.

Today western Beirut and all Lebanon in Al-Shuf, the mountain, the south, and Tripoli are rising to hoist the banner of independent and unified Lebanon in the form of steadfastness against the Zionist invaders and their U.S. protectors. They are also rising to confirm with their blood that Lebanon will neither be a dwelling place nor a gateway for the Zionist invaders and their agents, that the formula of nationalist Lebanon is the one which should prevail, and that there is no room for the factional regime or for the formula of the victor and the vanquished.

Today's killers in the Phalangist gangs and the factional army will not be able to extinguish the torch of patriotism and the savageness of the butchers will not manage to cancel the will of people who want a dignified and free life as well as independence, sovereignty, and freedom even if these killers depend on the aircraft carriers coming from overseas and on the lances of the Marines and the Israeli occupation forces.

AL-BA'TH adds: What is taking place in western Beirut today is a real indication that the factional regime, which is demolishing houses and killing the Lebanese people, has divested itself of any claim that it represents all the Lebanese. The one who shells Beirut and kills its people, the one who paves the way for bloodbaths in Al-Shuf and the mountain, and the one who agrees to the detachment of the south only represents the Zionist invaders and their U.S. protectors, whether he likes it or not. He also links his destiny to that of the Zionist occupiers and severs any relationship that may connect him with the people.

The people's will remains the stronger. It is this will which will achieve victory regardless of sacrifices, challenges, and diversified methods of repression and persecution. All we have to do is to wait and see.

AL-THAWRAH Warns Lebanese Regime

JN021059 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Text] Damascus, 2 Sep (SANA)--In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says: The horrible massacre which was perpetrated by the factional Lebanese regime against western Beirut inhabitants has disproved the slogans raised by this regime and canceled the possibility of reaching a Lebanese national accord.

The newspaper then wonders how anyone can believe the factional regime's call for national accord at a time when this regime is slaughtering people, killing both children and elderly, destroying Lebanon, and robbing this country of its freedom and sovereignty. It continues: Such a regime does not represent all the Lebanese people, and is only a tool in the hands of Israel, implementing its will and imposing the Phalangist hegemony on the Lebanese nationalist forces.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria has, right from the beginning, asserted that it will not allow the liquidation of the Lebanese nationalist forces and the transformation of Lebanon into a Phalangist-Israeli-U.S. base, and that it will extend all forms of aid and support to these forces in order to confront the massacres and bloodbaths.

Concluding, the paper says: The Lebanese regime must understand this and know that ignoring these facts will lead to grave consequences and complications whose price will be paid by Lebanon in the form of its people's blood and its own freedom and independence. Only the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism--its partner in the invasion and massacres--will then benefit from this situation.

Damascus Radio Commentary

JN021345 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The implementation of the Sabra and Shatila massacre a year ago was carried out through an agreement between the Israeli invasion forces and the Phalangist gangs, but the planning of that massacre was done through an agreement between the United States and Israel. That savage massacre gave the United States a reason to send its Marines back to Beirut under the guise of preventing the recurrence of such a massacre. More precisely, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the slaughter and annihilation of the Lebanese and Palestinian people which accompanied it were the outcome of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel. This agreement was aimed at expanding the circle of the U.S. military

presence, fulfilling Israel's expansionist ambitions against Lebanon, threatening and subjugating Syria, ending Syria's pioneering pan-Arab role in the nation's life, striking at the Arab liberation movement, and imposing the U.S.-Israeli domination over the whole region.

The United States today wants to expand the area of its forces' deployment in Lebanon in order to develop its hostile plans in the region under the pretext of curbing the so-called Soviet influence and fulfill Israel's ambitions against southern Lebanon and all of Lebanon by creating the appropriate circumstances under which Israel can annex it forever, especially after the contract of submission has given it large gains and after the real aims behind the so-called plan for the redeployment of forces and other clauses cited in the recent memorandum of understanding on the strategic cooperation agreement have been exposed. That memorandum was signed by the U.S. and Israeli sides on 18 May this year, that is, 1 day after the Lebanese regime had signed its contract of submission to Israel.

Thus, the bloody scenario of the Sabra and Shatila massacre was repeated, except for some alterations. This time the U.S. Marines participated with the Lebanese Army in killing the innocent Lebanese citizens in Beirut and its suburbs and in striking at the Lebanese nationalist forces, using the reply to their aggression--despite the full legitimacy of this reply--as a pretext for sending additional forces. In order to cover up this aim, the United States carried out a plan that it and France had agreed upon. This plan includes the reinforcement of their forces within the multinational force simultaneously; namely, at the same time that the Lebanese Army is continuing to kill citizens and impose the factional regime's control over all of Lebanon.

Under the pretext of the death of two of its Marines and under the guise of helping the Lebanese regime spread its alleged legitimacy over Beirut and its suburbs, the United States decided to reinforce its military presence and that of its NATO allies in Lebanon. Thus, the United States and its allies have revived the strategy of fleets and military conquests just like the colonialist states in the past.

What is taking place now in the form of killing the Lebanese citizens, striking at the Lebanese nationalist forces, and landing troops belonging to the imperialist forces in Lebanon is unequivocal evidence of these forces' premeditated plans and intentions not only against Lebanon and its people, but also against the nationalist regimes and liberation forces in the entire Arab region.

It seems that Israel, which suffered massive troop losses due to the Lebanese nationalist resistance operations, could not tolerate further losses. Accordingly, it was not able to perform alone the hostile role drawn up for it by the United States in the strategic cooperation agreement signed by them. Therefore, the partners in the multinational force sent military aid whose hostile aims exceed the Lebanese arena. This confirms that the coming battle with the new occupation forces requires the whole Arab nation to stand together and wage it on a comprehensive pan-Arab scale.

Therefore, the pan-Arab and revolutionary forces in the region are invited to study the new situation and its grave dangers and to draw up an effective strategy to resist the nation's enemies without any delay. Syria will remain, as the nation's sons have always known it, a country of struggle and sacrifice under al-Asad's leadership.

TISHRIN Assails U.S. Role

JN031110 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 3 Sep 83

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN today says: There is no doubt that the United States has become a direct party in the war and the massacre perpetrated by the Phalangist army against the Lebanese people in Beirut, and that it will also become a direct party in the massacre prepared for the mountain area very soon.

The United States is no longer satisfied with planning, preparing, and instigating in coordination with Israel and the Zionized regime; it has become one of the overt tools of implementation.

What can the United States now tell the world and the American people who have sent their sons on a mission which was depicted as peaceful? The United States has quickly become a real partner in a horrible massacre against the Lebanese people. What will the United States tell the American people when in self-defense the Lebanese people have to confront the Marines whom the U.S. administration has made the Lebanese people's enemies by force and who, to prevent the massacre, have no option but to avert death by confronting the messengers of death which were sent to them?

These bitter questions entail very dangerous consequences and repercussions which cannot be easily controlled. The battle in Lebanon is now very clear whether in terms of its objectives, the alliances, or the definition of the parties to the conflict. The battle which the United States is waging at the side of the Phalangist army and the Zionists against Lebanon and its nationalist forces is the battle of the future in Lebanon, that is the future of Lebanon as the new Lebanon, the homeland, the free, the sovereign, the nationalist, and the Arab Lebanon, or the other Lebanon which will be the opposite of all these noble values for which they have long struggled in order to devote and entrench these values on their territory.

U.S. brutality in killing the Lebanese nationalists and supporting the Phalangist army and the Zionized Phalangist regime aims to prevent the establishment of such a new homeland and to impose a Zionized Lebanon on Arab Lebanon, its Arab people, and its Arab homeland so that this Lebanon may become more vindictive against the Arabs than Israel and the Zionists. The Lebanese regime has proven, as of now, that it is really qualified to be more vindictive against Lebanese nationalists than Israel and all the enemies of the Arab nation.

After reviewing all the aspects of the U.S. role in Lebanon, TISHRIN says: It is impossible to undermine the nationalist and popular balance in Lebanon in favor of a minority, and the liquidation of one of its pillars is even more impossible. The imposition of a new fait accompli, based on this national imbalance in the Lebanese formula is impossible to achieve.

Any idea of settling the problem on this crazy basis is a big delusion and a very serious danger. The only practical and logical thinking which is in harmony with the situation in Lebanon and the region is the return to the Lebanese accord which entrenches the Lebanese formula with its known national balances on which Lebanon was established in the first place and the return to the Lebanese people to have them choose by themselves the path of salvation from the deadlock in which they were put by the Zionized Lebanese regime which has lost all its reasons for existence legally, morally, and even legitimately. Everybody will realize that there is no other way and that the insistence on continuing the massacre to achieve the Phalangist hegemony will lead to a very gloomy future.

Syria will not allow in any way whatsoever the crushing or the liquidation of the nationalist forces in the interest of the U.S.-Israeli-Phalangist agreement. Do not follow your whims, do not let the grudges blind you, and be reasonable. The salvation of the homeland cannot be reached by destroying it and breaking one of its strongest wings. Do not delude yourselves for a moment that you can impose a new fait accompli in Lebanon by getting rid of or destroying the other Lebanon which is the homeland and the future. Once again, this is something which cannot be achieved.

Damascus Reports, Comments on Fighting

JN041217 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Sep 83

[Text] Lebanon--Fierce clashes resumed this morning between the Phalangist Army and the Lebanese nationalist forces after the Israeli enemy radio announced that the withdrawal operation toward the Al-Awwali River in southern Lebanon would be completed later today.

The Phalangist radio reported that the clashes covered 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, 'Alayh, 'Ayn al-Halazun, Ru'aysat an-Nu'man, Kafr Matta, northern al-Mtan, ('Adi), (Kabarshayyah), 'Ayatat, ('Ayn as-Simal), Ash-Shuwayfat, and (Kafr Shima). The radio mentioned that sounds of explosions can be heard in many parts of the capital and its suburbs. On the other hand, Beirut radio reported that the Israeli forces continue their withdrawal from the mountain under an intensive air cover, and that Israeli warplanes have been overflying 'Alayh and Al-Shuf since dawn today.

The Phalangist radio also mentioned that the Israeli forces set up a road-block on al-Sayyad traffic circle and cut the road leading to West Beirut in order to secure its forces' withdrawal toward Al-Hirmil. The radio added that the Israeli forces have cut the coastal road leading to Sidon both ways.

Radio Monte Carlo reported that battles are now raging between the Phalangist army stationed in al-Kahhalah, 4 km away from 'Alayh, and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] forces in that area. The radio added that columns of smoke were seen billowing from several points in the Lebanese mountain, while the sound of artillery shells is reverberating in the area. A Phalangist army statement admitted that the PSP forces attacked Phalangist positions in 'Alayh on three fronts last night.

The AFP correspondent noted that the fighting began at 0200, at dawn today, after the Israeli forces completed their withdrawal from 'Alayh. The economy radio said that the Israeli forces have completed their withdrawal from the northern Al-Shuf area and have begun to withdraw from southern Al-Shuf.

Despite the fact that the Phalangists' radio dealt with the Israeli withdrawal as if it is taking place in a surprise manner, particularly with respect to the Phalangist army, press agencies cited Moshe Levi, the chief of staff of the enemy forces, as stressing that the withdrawal has taken place in accordance with the preplanned program and in coordination with the Phalangists.

An informed source in the Lebanese capital has learned that the PSP forces controlled the Khaldah area a short while ago and that the Phalangist army is trying to regain its control of the area, which is of vital importance to the capital, Beirut. Military observers say that the Phalangist army was completely surprised by the determination which characterized the nationalist forces' attack and their insistence on not allowing the Phalangist army to replace the Zionist forces in the areas from which they had withdrawn.

Damascus Radio on Regime's Plans

JN041717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Sep 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The situation has deteriorated once again in Lebanon. Battles are raging in the mountain and Al-Shuf in a new round of the bloody confrontation which the government of Amin al-Jumayyil has brought about as a replacement for national accord or at least for political dialogue among the parties who have the same fate. One month after U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane began his mission in the region, and in the wake of shuttle tours of Middle East countries and Western countries which are members of NATO, the reality of the mission which had been entrusted to the U.S. envoy has been exposed.

We have said, and continue to say, that McFarlane did not come to discuss the problem of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, and consequently save Lebanon from its national dilemma. He came, amid many statements by the White House on Lebanon, to provide the necessary cover for Israel's plan to redeploy its forces and to demarcate the borders of its occupation of Lebanon.

While Israel today began its withdrawal from the mountain and Al-Shuf, the indications of a civil war loom on the horizon. The salvation of Lebanon through a domestic political solution seems a far-fetched possibility and the Lebanese regime seems to be emerging from one crisis and entering into a more difficult and more complicated one. Under the threat of the Phalangist artillery, Lebanon is being partitioned in a de facto manner after the B'abda palace ignited the fuse of civil war in its attempts to oppress West Beirut and to expel its nationalist and Islamic forces in the capital and the southern suburb. In the wake of the positive signs for a political solution and national accord which loomed on the horizon with the escalation of the Lebanese resistance against the Zionist invaders, the proclamation of the nationalist and Islamic forces of their conditions for saving Lebanon, and the acceptance by the Lebanese regime of some of these conditions and its desire to pursue the dialogue through the issuance of timid invitations to achieve national accord, the head of the Lebanese regime, the legitimate representative of the Lebanese Front, exploded the security situation and undermined the channels of political dialogue with his campaign which extended from West Beirut, the mountain, Al-Shuf and the [southern] suburb in accordance with a timing that had been agreed on by the enemy leaders, the Reagan administration, and its NATO allies.

Following the failure to control the southern suburb and occupy the national sector of Beirut, the Lebanese regime, represented by its army whose patriotism is doubted and its traitorous Phalangist militias, sent its tanks to the mountain area with the support of the U.S. Marines and the multinational forces. Within this framework, the U.S. Administration announced that it would send naval and ground military reinforcements to its forces which are fighting in Lebanon. Pentagon sources also disclosed that orders were given to the U.S. aircraft carrier Eisenhower to shell the Lebanese nationalist resistance and Islamic positions following a series of confrontations in Beirut in which Reagan's soldiers played an important part.

The U.S. crises team and the National Security Council also held emergency meetings under Reagan and made dangerous decision on the situation in Lebanon. According to studied plans, Lebanon is again being pushed into the whirlpool of a civil war after the Phalangist regime had forced it to adapt itself to the Israeli occupation. The traitorous Lebanese front also voices its call for fighting the nationalist and Islamic forces, while the Israeli occupation tanks strengthen their positions in Lebanese territory. Amid calls for gaining the support of the enemy against the majority of the Lebanese people and against fraternal Syria, which is defending Lebanon, and amid calls by the traitorous Lebanese front for civil war, the Lebanese regime is calling for the Syrian forces evacuation of Lebanese territory while the Phalangists consider the Israeli occupation forces, which continue to shed Lebanese blood and plan to annex southern Lebanon, as forces friendly to Lebanon.

The Lebanese rulers have been exposed. No legitimacy for a rule that signs an agreement of submission with the enemy, no legitimacy for a rule that

approves the partial Israeli withdrawal, no legitimacy for a rule that represents a group which seeks to set up sectarian protectorates to protect the Zionist entity, no legitimacy for a rule that ignores the calls of the National Salvation Front and its Islamic and Christian forces, which resists occupation and Phalangist hegemony, and no legitimacy for a rule that turns the friend into an enemy and the enemy into a friend. The Lebanese regime's call for the withdrawal of the Syrian troops from Lebanon aims to cover the regime's collusion with the Washington-Tel Aviv plan to encircle Syria for its rejection of Reagan's initiative and other U.S. plans to spread hegemony over our region.

Developments in the deteriorating situation expose the Lebanese regime's call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon. The war in the mountain area, the campaign against the southern suburb of the capital, and U.S. military massing prove that the Lebanese regime intends to carry out Phalangist plans. Therefore, the regime's call for a Syrian withdrawal aims at weakening the nationalist and Islamic ranks, covering the partial Israeli withdrawal, and peddling the agreement of submission with the Israeli enemy. Al-Asad has always reiterated that there is no problem between Syria and Lebanon and that the Syrian troops will withdraw after the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli troops. Syria also said that it would not allow that Lebanon be turned into a victim for Israel and its expansionist ambitions.

The Lebanese regime has proved its collusion with Israel's plan to partition Lebanon and renew the civil war. We hold that regime responsible for the results of such plans. The Lebanese people, who have proved their belonging to their homeland, know how they will burn the hands that play with the fate of the Lebanese people.

Palestine Broadcast on Clashes

JN041951 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 83

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Clashes renewed in Al-Shuf and Beirut today following the Zionist forces' withdrawal. Sources close to the Lebanese regime and other political and press sources in Beirut have expressed confidence that the United States and the Lebanese authority have agreed with the Israeli side to synchronize the evacuation of the Israeli positions with the completion of all the preparations by the Lebanese Army and the U.S. and French forces for storming Al-Shuf and the mountain.

A Phalangist force composed of 15,000 men is standing ready alongside the army of the Lebanese authority to carry out a large-scale operation to isolate the southern suburb of Beirut, which is still causing difficulties for the allied U.S., Phalangist, and factional army force.

Lebanese circles believe that the movements of the U.S. and French ships are part of the operation on which the U.S. envoy has agreed with the Lebanese regime and the Israeli authority. This will lead to a direct U.S.-French involvement in the Lebanese incidents.

Reports from Washington say that President Reagan made a decision during the urgent meeting with his advisers in the National Security Council on direct military interference in the Lebanese war even if this leads to a direct clash between the U.S. forces and the Syrian Army in Lebanon. News agencies have confirmed this decision by reporting the Pentagon's statements and the orders which were given to the U.S. planes to bomb any source of fire that is aimed at the U.S. forces at the same time that orders were given to these forces to participate directly in the process of evacuating the nationalist Lebanese fighters and the supporters of the Lebanese National Salvation Front from Al-Shuf and the mountain areas.

CSO: 4400/499

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON LAND USE, PRODUCTIVITY

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] From the victory of the Islamic revolution to the present, more than 320,000 hectares of agricultural land--in use, fallow and uncultivated--together with machinery and related equipment have been distributed among more than 82,000 farm families having little or no land. According to the report of an IRNA correspondent, the minister of agriculture and rural development, in an address to a gathering of ministry staff and specialists, stated in this regard:

"Moreover, some 800,000 hectares of land for temporary cultivation have been put at the disposal of farmers by the 7-man teams for land distribution."

With respect to government policy regarding support for agriculture he said: "As to support for the downtrodden and oppressed through programs carried out in this sector of the country's agriculture since the time of Martyr Raja'i's government, the fundamental steps have been taken despite conditions brought on by the imposed war and economic sanctions. In this area we have met with impressive success.

"For example, the amount of 77 billion rials in loans were distributed to villagers in 1977, whereas loans made in 1982 amounted to 184 billion rials, which was roughly a 2.5-fold increase."

The minister of agriculture and rural development added: "Wheat production in 1977 totaled 5,500,000 tons, whereas production for 1982 increased to over 6,600,000 tons, yielding an increase of roughly more than a million tons. Moreover, figures for surplus wheat purchased from farmers since the victory of the Islamic revolution have registered an annual increase."

Brother Salamati said: "The number of tractors distributed last year to farmers was some 4-fold the number distributed in the years prior to the revolution." The minister of agriculture and rural development said in conclusion: "This percentage increase in distribution is being reflected throughout the entire agricultural organs and spectrum; the upshot is that we are witness to increased agricultural productivity. Parallel with production factors, attention has been given to strengthening rural cooperatives and consumer items and goods essential to villages have been distributed among them."

CSO: 4600/341

EDITORIAL EXAMINES RISING PRICES, URGES ACTION

GF011206 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Aug 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Consoling the Hapless Consumer"]

[Text] Efforts to reduce or hold down prices in Pakistan have been a dismal failure. Departments of supplies and prices set up in the provinces have not achieved much. While the retailers of meat, vegetables and fruits as well as the producers in the rural areas have been blaming the "ahritis" or middlemen for high prices, Shaykh Ishrat Ali, president's adviser on internal trade, says that within the existing distribution system "ahritis" cannot be eliminated. So they will continue to get the better of the growers, retailers and consumers.

He says that the cost analysis system will be introduced to determine the cost of production and legitimate rate of profit for the manufacturers. But the Finance Ministry has a cost accounting cell for a long time now. And its estimates of possible cost increases have always been very low or unrealistic even in the case of the consequences of the last increase in the price of oil, the gulf between the estimates of the finance minister in respect of possible fare increases of buses and taxis and freightage increase for trucks and the actuality has been vast. Is the performance of this unit going to be any better now? It is one thing to state what should be the increase in the price or the rise in the cost of production and quite another to achieve such market reality. Hence, the proposed effort to make a detailed study of production costs may not bring relief to the people unless that is done in a scientific and realistic manner and not through simple computer operations.

Shaykh Ishrat also proposes district consumer committees all over the country. Such suggestions have been made in the past as well and such committees set up here and there but without success. Can such committees succeed in our current environment where martial law raids, heavy fines and other official efforts have failed? Currently mutton and beef prices all over the country have shot up, and they are bound to rise further before and after 'Id al-Adha. What is going to be done about it? The people in general, though not the Dubai crowd or the beneficiaries of crime and corruption, have reduced consumption of mutton because of its giddy price. Now even beef is taking a leap in that direction. And there is small hope of relief in this area. The much publicized cattle farm schemes, with or without foreign participation,

do not seem to be making any headway. Nor does the government want to stop export of mutton or living animals, sometimes clandestinely. While people are being exhorted to consume more and more of protein to increase their efficiency and productivity meat has become scarce and too costly. Even pulse prices are too high for the poor man.

It is proper that the government should raise the number of official utility stores from 350 to 700 but they don't sell vegetables, fruit or meat. They trade in dry stuff, and while their prices may not be higher than market prices and often lower, the quality is not uniformly good. And even 700 utility stores cannot become a substitute for the normal market mechanism.

If the government really wants to hold down prices it must admit that the gap between availability of goods and demand in several areas is large. Such gaps have to be filled, wherever possible. Consumer protection committees at district and town levels or even lower, and realistic cost studies can yield positive results if the government's efforts are sustained and systematic and not fitful or feebly draconian. Such problems cannot be solved only by wanting it or exhorting the people not to indulge in profiteering. In a country where the government's own rates and charges increase rapidly traders would do likewise readily. Hence, let the government, too, mend its ways in this regard, and not resort to sharp increases in rates of its own services and supplies, and then expect the consumer committees to produce mini-miracles.

CSO: 4600/881

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

WHEATSHIPMENTS TO IRAN--A commercial agreement is being discussed between Pakistan and Iran. At the conclusion of this agreement, Pakistan will start sending wheat to Iran by the land route. Previously, Pakistani wheat was sent to Iran by Pakistani railways. According to official sources this agreement will be signed next month during the visit of Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan to Iran. Under the terms of this agreement Pakistan will export to Iran 180,000 tons of wheat. Of this amount, 30,000 tons has already been shipped by sea and 40,000 tons by rail. [Text] [GF281348 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 23 Aug 83 p 5]

COTTON EXPORTS--Pakistan exported 1.5 million bales of cotton worth over 3.9 billion rupees during last financial year, earning the largest amount of foreign exchange for the country. This was stated by the chairman of the cotton exports corporation at a meeting of the Pakistan Cotton Association in Karachi on 28 August. [Summary] [BK300150 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Aug 83]

CSO: 4656/250

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